



Daily Report

East Asia

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29 October 1993

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Seminar on Asian Arms Export Control System

OW2610222893 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] In an effort to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction such as biological and chemical weapons, as well as items that may possibly be used in producing such weapons, an international seminar has opened today in Tokyo to help transfer export control systems developed in the major industrialized nations to industrialized nations in Asia. Export control officials from Indonesia and other ASEAN nations, as well as the ROK and Hong Kong, attended the first day of the three-day seminar cosponsored by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and the Foreign Ministry.

Today, government officials from Japan, the United States, and Australia who were designated as instructors lectured on such topics as controlling exports of weapons of mass destruction, such as biological and chemical weapons and missiles, as well as international affairs in the post-Cold War period.

The major industrialized nations have strengthened their controls over the export on arms of mass destruction and products that may possibly be used in producing such weapons. Recently, however, developing nations have learned to manufacture such products in the process of their industrialization. As a result, the major industrialized nations have begun to show growing concern that the proliferation of such arms and products may inevitably occur because merely tightening controls among themselves would not effectively prevent this. Therefore, Japan for its part decided to hold the seminar, stressing the need to design a more effective international security framework by urging industrialized Asian nations to implement the same degree of effectiveness in export control systems as in the major industrialized nations.

ASEAN To Benefit From Rise in EC Tuna Quota

BK2910022593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Oct 93 p 32

[Text] The European Community has agreed to expand its quota for importing canned tuna from countries outside Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) by a further 28,000 tons for next year, trade officials say. Robert Payne, a Rome-based fisheries consultant from Canada who is chairing the Tuna '93 Bangkok conference, said yesterday EC representatives told him of the increase, which would bring the quota for 1994 to 152,000 tons.

The new EC quota due to come into effect on January 1, is controversial because it covers all EC members. It replaces quotas previously imposed by only some EC members before the community removed internal barriers under its single market.

ASEAN countries and other exporters outside the ACP group have complained to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade that the new quotas represent increased protectionism because EC members that previously did not restrict import quantities are to come under the new quota.

These exporting nations also complain that they are discriminated against because of the favourable treatment given to the ACP group—mainly former colonies of EC members. The EC, at the beginning of October, announced that it would increase its 48,500-ton import quota in response to complaints by Thailand and other ASEAN member states to the GATT Council.

Brussels also says the quotas will be expanded until the phase-out period over four years. But Mr Payne said non-ACP countries, including Thailand and other ASEAN member states, still have to pay 24 percent in duties, while ACP countries do not.

The unified European market is second only to the United States as a consumer of canned tuna and is traditionally supplied by domestic canners. Increasingly, this is being supplemented by ACP products.

Since demand is expected to continue to grow and production growth would be slow, prices would tend to rise, Mr Payne said. The production slowdown was a result of effective stock management, which means numbers of catching boats would be limited.

In general, the mood of fishermen and canners at the meeting was pessimistic: the recent price decline had caused hardships for both sectors and has been compounded by high interest rates on large loans secured to implement expansion plans, especially in Indonesia.

In addition, canners are having difficulties adjusting to the new realities of market access, particularly in Europe.

Marketers are much more upbeat: the Japanese sashimi market growth bodes well, prices are holding up and catch growth of this type of product is generally satisfactory.

Resource managers, too, are much more positive than vessel owners, feeling that management regimes are improving in the Western Pacific. Besides, there seems to be general acceptance that environmental and dolphin issues are under control at the moment, although the embargoes and automatic detentions related to them are problematic.

Japan**Hata: Imported Rice To Go on Sale in March**

*OW2910051193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0504 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—Rice imported in an emergency step to make up for the record poor domestic harvest this year will go on the market next March. Japan's farm minister said Friday [29 October].

Speaking at a regular press conference, Eiji Hata, minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, said the ministry will sell the imported rice to wholesalers within the current fiscal year, ending next March 31. He said the ministry expects rice supplies to be tight before next year's harvest, so it wants to supply the imported rice in moderation.

Earlier this month, the ministry announced a plan to import about 200,000 tons of rice despite the nation's ban on rice imports.

Hata said the ministry is buying rice harvested this year at a pace of about 100,000 tons a day. It expects the amount bought will be some three million tons by the end of October, he said.

Asked about the Uruguay round of global trade talks, Hata said he will visit Geneva and Brussels next week to meet world trade negotiators at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"It has come to a crucial time. I will do my best to obtain understanding of Japan's stance to maintain the rice import ban," he said.

SDPJ Views Rice Liberalization 'Intentions'

OW2910113793 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0308 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Announcer-read report over video; from "NHK News" program]

[Text] Koken Nosaka, chairman of the Diet Administration Committee of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], said that for the time being, his party has no intentions of proposing additional Diet resolutions opposing rice tariffication.

In a news conference held today, Nosaka said: The coalition parties agreed on 28 October to carefully deal with Diet resolutions. On these grounds, the SDPJ will tell the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] that no additional Diet resolutions are necessary on the rice tariffication issue, since the Diet has already adopted three resolutions on the subject. The most important point is that all of the coalition parties are supposed to work on the issue together. Therefore, the SDPJ will not propose antitariffication resolutions against the will of its coalition partners.

Meanwhile, LDP Secretary General Yoshiro Mori criticized the coalition for postponing Diet deliberations on the antitariffication resolution, saying the coalition's policies are inconsistent.

Referring to an antitariffication resolution proposed by the LDP yesterday, Mori said the government must carry on diplomatic negotiations in line with Diet decisions, since the Diet represents the opinions of the public. He noted that the resolution was shelved by some influential members of the coalition, even though most of the coalition parties once held favorable views toward it. Mori said the coalition's attitude toward the issue indicates its internal discord and a lack of consistency in its policies.

Ministry Calls Rice Harvest 'Disastrous'

*OW2910080993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0722 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—Japan's rice harvest index as of October 15 dropped to 75 against the normal level of 100, sliding further from a September 15 estimate of 80, the Farm Ministry reported Friday [29 October]. The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said in a preliminary report on a survey conducted in mid-October the index is worst since the end of World War II, far below the 84 marked in 1953.

The worst among the prefectures is Aomori, whose index fell 4 points from September to 28, with its Shimokita area slipping to zero from 4.

The nationwide harvest is estimated at 7.93 million tons, lower than the postwar low of 8.24 million tons in 1953. The 1993 estimate is down by 2.61 million tons from 1992 levels.

The ministry attributed the disastrous crop mainly to continuing low temperature and a lack of sunshine since mid-September. It said a series of typhoons and an outbreak of blight were also responsible.

Hosokawa: Tokyo, Beijing Should Strengthen Ties

*OW2910035193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0331 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa told a Chinese official Friday [29 October] that Japan and China should strengthen bilateral ties through personnel exchanges and political dialogue, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Hosokawa made the remark to Sun Pinghua, president of the China-Japan Friendship Association, in a meeting at the prime minister's official residence.

During the 30-minute talk, the premier noted China is an influential nation in the Asia-Pacific region along with Japan and the United States, and expressed hope that Tokyo can further enhance relations with Beijing, the official said.

Noting that the visit by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko to China in October 1992 opened a new page in China-Japan ties, Sun spoke of the need for the two countries to contribute from now to the peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, the official said.

Touching on the scheduled talks between Chinese Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Seattle in November, Hosokawa reportedly said he is paying close attention to the future course of China-U.S. ties.

The Chinese and U.S. leaders will hold summit talks when leaders of the member states of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum assemble in the U.S. west coast city November 19 and 20.

Hosokawa, who will also attend the APEC gathering, was quoted as telling Sun that he looks forward to seeing Jiang.

Sun has been president of the 30-year-old China-Japan Friendship Association since 1986.

Kirin To Launch PRC Joint Production Project

OW2610053493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0453 GMT
26 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 26 KYODO—Kirin Brewery Co. is negotiating a deal with a Chinese brewery and a Hong Kong trading house to launch a joint beer production project in China, the third-largest beer consumer in the world, company officials said Tuesday [26 October].

The project with Dalian Bohai Brewery, headquartered in Dalian, northeastern China, and Van Yu Trading Co. of Hong Kong is now under feasibility studies, they said.

The partners are expected to reach a basic agreement on details of the project with an overall investment estimated at about 27 million U.S. dollars.

A company will be established jointly in Dalian early next year and will start construction of production facilities, with brewing to begin about two years later, the officials said.

Dalian Bohai's beer output is about 30,000 kiloliters per year.

According to the officials, China's beer production in 1992 increased 19.9 percent from the year before to about 15 million kiloliters, compared with 7.4 million kiloliters in Japan.

On the other hand, per capita annual beer consumption in China stayed only at about 8.58 liters, compared with 55.6 liters for the Japanese, showing a big potential for growth in China, they said.

Hosokawa's Visit to South Korea Previewed

OW2910042593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0401 GMT
29 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's two-day visit to South Korea beginning November 6 for talks with President Kim Yong-sam, their first get-acquainted meeting since both took office this year, is next week's top news event.

The Hosokawa-Kim summit in the ancient Korean capital of Kyongju will follow security talks earlier in the week between the United States and the two countries, which are its major allies in east Asia. The security talks are expected to center on the threat from North Korea's suspected development of nuclear arms and medium-range ballistic missiles.

Hosokawa has chosen a weekend for his South Korea visit because the Diet, where ruling and opposition forces are at odds over four government-proposed political and electoral reform bills, could temporarily adjourn.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura, Hosokawa's chief of staff, told reporters Wednesday that the prime minister hopes to establish mutual trust since South Korea is Japan's closest neighbor.

Kim said in Seoul last week that he wishes to speak "candidly" with Hosokawa and spoke of the need for Japan and his nation to forge a "future-oriented" relationship.

Hosokawa is expected in Saturday's meeting to reiterate Japan's apology for the plight of Korean women who were forced to act as prostitutes or "comfort women" in brothels for front-line Japanese soldiers before and during World War II. About 200,000 women, mostly from Korea, which was then under Japan's colonial rule, are said to have been involved.

Hosokawa and Kim are also expected to discuss how to counteract the threat from North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development program and its ballistic missiles, which are reportedly capable of hitting most of western Japan.

Forging a unified stance among Tokyo, Seoul and Washington against Russia's dumping of nuclear waste in the Sea of Japan will also be taken up for discussion, Japanese officials said.

The two leaders are scheduled to meet again when they attend an informal summit meeting of the 15-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Seattle on November 19 and 20.

U.S. Defense Secretary Les Aspin is scheduled to visit Japan and South Korea next week for talks on security issues in east Asia—his first trip to the two countries since his appointment in January.

While in Tokyo on Tuesday and Wednesday, Aspin will meet Hosokawa, Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata and Keisuke Nakanishi, state minister in charge of the Defense Agency.

The focus in the Nakanishi-Aspin meeting is likely to be a U.S. proposal to help Japan develop an air-defense system against a North Korean ballistic missile called Nodong-1, which is reportedly capable of delivering either nuclear or biological warheads.

From Tokyo, the U.S. defense secretary will travel to Seoul to attend the 25th annual security consultative meeting between the two countries from Wednesday through Friday.

Other foreign dignitaries visiting Tokyo next week include El Salvador's President Alfredo Christiani, to be accompanied by Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Pacas Castro.

The president, although visiting Japan at the invitation of a private organization from Tuesday to Friday, may meet Hosokawa, Hata and other Japanese leaders. Christiani previously visited Japan in 1990 for Emperor Akihito's enthronement.

El Salvador is requesting some 410 million dollars in new aid from Japan, which is considering Salvadoran proposals for a number of loan projects. Japanese officials said.

Japan and Australia will hold a cabinet-level meeting Tuesday to discuss ways to further bolster their partnership in the Asia-Pacific region.

Japanese officials to attend the meeting include Hata, Minister of International Trade and Industry Hiroshi Kumagai and Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii.

The Australian delegation includes Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, Finance Minister Ralph Willis and Trade Minister Peter Cook.

Farm Minister Eijiro Hata will be visiting Geneva and Brussels next week in an effort to explain Japan's reluctance to replace its ban on rice imports with tariffs as part of a global trade agreement. He will meet Peter Sutherland, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, in Geneva on Tuesday and Rene Steichen, the European Community's farm commissioner, in Brussels the following day.

Sutherland visited Tokyo earlier this month to press the Hosokawa government for a decision on the opening of Japan to rice imports to help bring about a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks by the December 15 deadline. [passage omitted on sports events]

Extension of Peacekeepers in Mozambique Viewed

*OW2810093993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0831 GMT
28 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 28 KYODO—Japan will extend the service period of a Japanese peacekeeping mission in Mozambique until October 1994, government sources said Thursday [28 October].

The cabinet will make the decision on November 12, as the United Nations Security Council will pass a resolution at the end of October to extend the period of its peacekeeping operations in the southeast African nation, they said.

In May, Japan dispatched a 48-member team to carry out transport control operations and five officers to serve as staff members at the UN command there.

A new 48-member transportation corps will leave for Mozambique in late November to replace the present one as Japan relieves its peacekeepers every six months, the officials said.

The five commanding staff members, however, will stay for a further six months, they said.

The cabinet will also allow the use of C-130 transport planes in Mozambique to carry rice cakes for the Japanese team's new year festivities, they said.

UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Mozambique President Joaquim Alberto Chissano and dissidents met in mid-October and agreed to hold an election by October 1994 to pick a new president and a new parliament.

Soares Ends Tokyo Trip, Leaves for Hong Kong

*OW2710121693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1129 GMT
27 Oct 93*

[Text] Osaka, Oct. 27 KYODO—Portuguese President Mario Soares left Osaka Wednesday [27 October] night for Hong Kong, capping a 10-day visit to Japan.

Soares' visit commemorated the 450th anniversary of the landings in 1543 of three Portuguese castaways who introduced rifles to the country.

In talks with Japanese political and business leaders, Soares called for more Japanese investment in Portugal and asked Tokyo to help correct the trade imbalance between the two countries.

Documents Exchanged on Loan to Indonesia

*OW2910054793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0529 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—Japan will loan up to 158.04 billion yen to Indonesia to support its economic, social development and public welfare improvement, Foreign Ministry officials said Friday [29 October]. Japanese Ambassador to Indonesia Kimio Fujita and

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas exchanged documents agreeing to the loan in Jakarta, the officials said.

Japan pledged the amount at the second meeting of the Indonesia Aid Conference in Paris last June, the officials said.

The loan includes 123.9 billion yen for 18 projects to beef up economic infrastructure such as electricity, transportation and communication, they said.

The loans in sectors amount to about 34 billion yen for improvement in eight sectors such as agriculture, water resources, transport and communication, social welfare and education, they said. The 30-year loan, with a 10-year grace period, carries an annual interest rate of 2.6 percent, they said.

Norwegian Minister Lauds Tokyo's Aid to PLO

*OW2910113493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1014 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Holst on Friday [29 October] lauded Japan's aid plan to help Palestinians rebuild their homeland, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Holst, who won international acclaim this fall for his secret negotiations that paved the way for a Middle East peace agreement, made the remark to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa in a meeting at the Japanese leader's official residence.

Hosokawa has unveiled Tokyo's plan to extend about 200 million dollars in financial aid over the next two years to help Palestinians rebuild their homeland, ravaged by years of violence and armed conflicts with Israel.

The Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel signed a peace accord in mid-September that promises limited self-government for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank city of Jericho.

The Middle East issue is very complicated but "interesting and challenging," the official quoted Holst as saying.

During the 30-minute talks, Hosokawa reportedly said he was deeply impressed with Holst's achievements in the peace negotiations.

On Russia's dumping of radioactive waste into the sea, Hosokawa said Japan wishes to discuss how to control such activity with other countries, including Norway, at a meeting of the London Convention on Pollution and Seawater set for November 8. Russia admitted for the first time in March that it has disposed of nuclear waste in the Sea of Japan, the Sea of Okhotsk, the north Pacific and the Barents Sea between 1959 and 1992. It also dumped about 900 tons of radioactive waste into the Sea of Japan earlier this month.

Holst and Hosokawa also agreed on mutual cooperation on whaling, which both countries support, and United Nations peacekeeping activities, the official said.

In a separate meeting with Defense Agency Director General Keisuke Nakanishi, Holst offered Norway's support for Japan and Germany to acquire permanent seats on the UN Security Council, Defense Agency officials said.

Holst told Nakanishi that the council needs to be reformed since it does not correctly reflect the contemporary global situation.

Holst arrived in Japan on Thursday for a 72-hour stay.

Burma's Navy Chief Than Nyunt Visits Tokyo

*OW2710042993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0410 GMT
27 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 27 KYODO—Myanmar's [Burma's] top naval officer, Than Nyunt, is paying a four-day unofficial visit to Japan and will have talks with his Japanese counterpart, government sources said Wednesday [27 October].

Adm. Than Nyunt, who concurrently serves as Myanmar's health minister, is scheduled to hold talks Thursday with Adm. Chiaki Hayashizaki, chief of staff of the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF), the sources said. Than Nyunt arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday.

Japan is likely to call on Myanmar to participate in the United Nations register of conventional arms, since Myanmar is among the countries that kept their deals secret in the latest listing for 1992, they said.

The United States, which has accused Myanmar of purchasing military hardware beyond its needs, is presently conducting a review of U.S. policy toward Myanmar that reportedly includes the option of pressing for a U.N. arms embargo on the country.

India and the six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), meanwhile, have shown concern that Myanmar's growing military cooperation with China may mean an expanded Chinese naval presence in the region.

Chinese experts in 1992 were reported to have helped Myanmar upgrade its existing naval facilities in Sittwe, Yangon [Rangoon] and Mergui.

Myanmar has denied persistent reports that China has provided technical assistance to build a new naval base on Hainggyi island in the Indian Ocean at the mouth of the Bassein River.

Hata Urges Burma To Heed International Opinion

*OW2910124293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1203 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—Japan on Friday [29 October] asked Myanmar [Burma] to pay heed to international calls to restore democracy and free opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest. Foreign

Ministry officials said. Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata made the call in a 40-minute meeting with his Myanmar counterpart Ohn Gyaw, who arrived Thursday on an unofficial visit.

Hata was quoted as saying Japan's new coalition government has "considerable interest" in seeing an early transfer to democratic rule in Myanmar and greater respect for human rights. He told Ohn Gyaw the international community views the situation of Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, who has been under house arrest in Yangon [Rangoon] since July 1989, as a "symbol" of Myanmar's resolve on democracy and human rights.

"It is important for Myanmar to make efforts to resolve this issue," Hata was quoted as saying.

Myanmar's ruling junta has nullified the results of a 1990 election in which Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) won a landslide victory and has said new elections will be held after adoption of a new constitution.

Asked what the military regime intends to do about Aung San Suu Kyi, officials said Ohn Gyaw explained that the restrictions placed on her movement are being applied in accordance with Myanmar's domestic law. He reiterated the junta's position that she is "free to leave the country at any time" to rejoin her British husband and their children in Oxford.

Ohn Gyaw told Hata the dissident's family members have been permitted to visit her in Yangon on some four occasions, while she has been able to convey her ideas abroad by sending speeches and announcements to the United States and Britain.

Officials said Hata expressed hope that the national convention formed by the junta to draw up guidelines for the new constitution will lead to the earliest possible democratization of the country as anticipated by the international community.

The convention, now in adjournment for the fourth time, is scheduled to recommence on January 18. Last month, the convention adopted a set of basic principles for the constitution which would authorize future takeovers of state power by the armed forces chief in the event of "national emergencies."

While calling for a multiparty democracy system with freedom of expression and worship, the basic principles also authorize a leading role for the military in the parliament and administration.

Critics of the junta claim the convention is a ploy to delay the transfer of power to the 1990 election winners. They say the delegates are unrepresentative of the democratic opposition and note there is no deadline for the group to finish its tasks.

Hata called on the Myanmar regime to clarify the nature and timing of procedures that need to be taken in the future to implement the new constitution.

Ohn Gyaw was quoted as saying that as foreign minister he is keenly aware of the fact that Myanmar is under the close scrutiny of the international community.

Welcomes Burmese Cease-Fire Accord

*OW2910143293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1408 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata on Friday [29 October] welcomed the recent cease-fire agreement between the central authorities of Myanmar [Burma] and the country's Kachin minority. Foreign Ministry officials said. Hata congratulated the accord in a 40-minute meeting with Myanmar Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw, who arrived Thursday on an unofficial visit.

Hata was quoted as saying Japan welcomes the October 1 announcement by Myanmar's ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) and the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) of their intention to end hostilities, which have lasted over three decades. He appraised the decision to allow the KIO to participate in a national convention formed by the junta to draw up guidelines for a new constitution. The constitution will establish a multiparty democracy, but allow the military a "leading role" in governing.

The Kachin, a predominantly Christian minority in northern Myanmar, launched their armed rebellion in the early 1960s with the initial aim to establish an independent state. By the mid-1970s, the group shifted its goal to establishing an autonomous state.

The KIO broke ranks with other rebel forces grouped in the Democratic Alliance of Burma and carried out separate peace talks with SLORC. The Kachin group says talks are continuing and that no political or formal military agreements have been reached.

SLORC has reached accords in recent years with a number of ethnic rebel groups, including a faction of the Kachin Independence Army, the military wing of the KIO. Other such ethnic groups include the Shan, Pa-oh, Kokan, Wa and Palaung.

Ministry Asked for Conditional TV Asahi License

*OW2910094893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0902 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—An advisory council to the posts and telecommunications minister on Friday [29 October] submitted a report that asks the ministry to attach conditions on renewing a broadcasting license to TV Asahi, whose former news chief's remarks caused "suspicion" of network's biased election coverage.

Upon the report of the Radio Regulatory Council, the ministry will issue the broadcasting license to the country's major commercial tv network on November 1, attaching a condition that the ministry will take necessary steps as further details of the remarks are examined, ministry officials said.

The ministry renews the license for tv and radio companies every five years.

Sadayoshi Tsubaki, former director and news bureau chief of the Asahi National Broadcasting Co., said at a meeting of the National Association of Commercial Broadcasters in Japan in late September that he had told his staff, "right now we should by all means block the continuation of the rule of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) coalition government." Tsubaki added, "of course this was not an order."

Tsubaki made the remarks concerning the July 18 general election. He left the company last week after his remarks stirred "suspicion" over the alleged "biased election coverage."

On Monday, Tsubaki, testifying before a Diet committee, apologized for his remarks, but denied TV Asahi's coverage of the polls was designed to dislodge the governing LDP from power.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Takenori Kanazaki will urge the tv company to engage in impartial reporting activities as the license is issued, the officials said.

On Wednesday, TV Asahi President Kunio Ito pledged to check all video tapes of the network's election program at an in-house research committee which includes outsiders such as academicians.

The July election of the powerful House of Representatives brought about the coalition government led [by] Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa in August after the LDP failed to retain a majority, thus ending the party's 38-year dominance of power.

Coalition Leaders Agree on Political Reform

OW2910041393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0344 GMT
29 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and party leaders in his coalition government agreed Friday [29 October] to pass a political reform package by the end of the year, officials of the coalition parties said. Hosokawa asked the leaders for cooperation to realize his pledge to pass the package in the Diet by the year-end and the party chiefs agreed, the officials said.

The premier discussed the matter over breakfast with the heads of five parties—the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Shinseito, Komeito, the Democratic Social Party and Sakigake.

To speed the measure, they agreed to hold a meeting of ruling and opposition party secretaries general outside the Diet before a scheduled parliamentary hearing on the reform bills November 8 to 11.

SDP Chairman Tomiichi Murayama asked the coalition to reduce income tax by at least 2 trillion or 3 trillion yen by the year-end to boost the sluggish economy, the officials said.

After the meeting, Shinseito leader Tsutomu Hata, who is also deputy prime minister and foreign minister, told reporters he wants to hold more such meetings in an effort to pass the reform bills speedily.

Public Works Orders to Major Contractors Drop

OW2910091393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0833 GMT
29 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—Public works orders received by the nation's 50 major contractors dropped 21.4 percent in September from a year earlier to 780.735 million yen for the fifth consecutive month of yearly falls, the Construction Ministry said Friday [29 October]. The decline was attributed to a cautious attitude among local governments in placing orders after a series of bribery scandals surfaced in which several leading construction companies are allegedly involved.

Orders placed by the central government with the surveyed 50 contractors showed a double-digit decline in August and preceding months. But the decline eased to an 8.8 percent fall in September, officials at the ministry said.

Orders placed by local governments, however, fell 30.2 percent in the latest month, they said. In contrast, public works orders received by 465 regional contractors shot up 27.4 percent in September from a year earlier, changing from a slight decline registered in August.

The officials said concerned sectors have apparently postponed big projects while increasing orders for smaller ones to regional companies to maintain their planned level of public works investment.

Commission Backs Consumption Tax Rate Increase

OW2910100793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0930 GMT
29 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—The government's Tax Commission agreed to raise the rate of the consumption tax from the current 3 percent, commission head Kan Kato said Friday [29 October]. A majority of commission members underscored the importance of securing financial sources for welfare payments in the future, amid the rapid graying of the Japanese society, Kato told a press conference.

The commission will begin work shortly on specifics of the proposed hike, he said.

The commission also agreed to recommend in its interim tax reform report next month to cut special breaks granted to smaller companies under the current consumption tax system. The step would lead to ensuring "fairness" and "transparency," eventually helping rectify a heavy bias toward direct taxation in the overall Japanese tax system, Kato said.

Kato said commission members agreed to postpone discussion on whether or not municipal governments should introduce a consumption tax, due to difficult technical reasons involved.

Kato dismissed arguments that a higher consumption tax would impose a heavier financial burden on less wealthy people due to its "regressive" nature. The issue of the tax's regressive nature should be discussed not as a separate problem but as an issue under the overall taxation structure, Kato said. He said social welfare-related benefits are sufficient for lower-income people under existing conditions.

The majority of commission members opposed to expanding the scope of areas that would be subject to tax exemption under a higher consumption tax, while the consumption tax rate should be hiked uniformly instead of a limited raise, such as for luxury goods, Kato said.

Maintaining the current single rate system for consumption tax would be "satisfactory" if the new rate is under 10 percent, Kato said.

He also said that most of the commission members proposed scrapping minimum taxable sales for corporations, now set at 30 million yen, terming it an unfair tax break for small companies. But opinions were mixed over whether or not to reform the current simplified calculation system for the consumption tax, which has been under fire as generating windfall profits to smaller firms, Kato said.

On a municipal consumption tax, Kato said the step may be necessary in view of growing calls for an increased power shift to local governments, but it would be technically very difficult. Prefecture-based tax collection would be made difficult if goods manufactured in Hokkaido are sold in Fukuoka, he said.

Short-Term Futures Interest Rates Fall

*OW2910033293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0308 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—Interest rates on short-term rate futures fell Friday [29 October] morning in Tokyo in an apparent move by money market participants to digest expected Bank of Japan moves to guide short-term rates lower.

The September and March futures contracts on three-month Euroyen deposit rate on the Tokyo International Financial Futures Exchange (TIFFE) drew heavy buying, with their rates sinking to around 2.25 percent from Thursday's 2.28 percent.

A dealer at a major commercial bank said, "Similar moves were also seen yesterday but the contracts met selling toward the closing. Market focus is now on when such moves will become a fixed trend."

Meanwhile, shorter-term rates on the money market rose on technical, month-end factors despite a relatively ample fund injection by the central bank.

The unsecured overnight call rate, the benchmark rate in interbank trading, was at 2 16/32 percent to 2 17/32 percent, 1 basis point higher than Thursday's most frequently traded rate.

The central bank bought 500 billion yen in one-week discount bills and extended 100 billion yen through its window lending to offset liquidity shortfall of 510 billion yen expected in the banking system. The bills purchased at a rate of 2 14/32 percent will expire on November 10.

On the open market, three-month certificates of deposit (CDs), issued by commercial banks, were offered at 2.38 percent to 2.40 percent. They were issued Thursday at an all-time low of 2.38 percent.

Many participants believe the Bank of Japan will begin guiding rates lower in December when the central bank completes its quarterly business sentiment survey, dealers said. "The current stance is limited to tolerating a moderate fall," they said.

BOJ Says Firms Suffering Postbubble Problems

*OW2910094593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0927 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—Private firms suffered from high costs in fiscal 1992 that ended last March as a result of various expenses stemming from previous frenzied investment in the days of speculative asset inflation, the Bank of Japan [BOJ] reported Friday [29 October]. The central bank said, however, that improvement of their capital conditions somewhat contributed to profitability, while depreciation costs had peaked and the effects of fixed-z xAcost trimming had begun to appear.

As for manufacturers, the ratio of pretax profit against sales in fiscal 1992 remained at the lowest level since the first oil shock with corporate pretax profit down for the third year in a row.

Although the growth of fixed costs slowed considerably, the absolute amount continued to exert pressure on operations, even though lower variable costs helped boost profitability.

The report found companies had slightly reduced their financial assets, while slashing their external fund-raising activities. Losses incurred from sales of securities shrank from fiscal 1991, it said.

The BOJ forecast that it will not be easy for companies to improve their profitability in the current fiscal year in

the wake of the appreciation of the yen, but expected them to continue restructuring efforts with a long-term perspective.

More Firms Said Eligible for Employment Subsidy

*OW2910090993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0831 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—The Labor Ministry designated 16 more industries as being eligible for its employment adjustment subsidy for a year beginning November 1, ministry officials said Friday [29 October].

The officials said the newly designated industries included synthetic fiber and synthetic rubber makers, vegetable and fruit canning and bottling firms, toy makers and electric generator manufacturers.

A total of 116,000 workers at about 3,945 workshops are involved, the officials said. With the addition of new industries, the list of industries eligible for the government subsidy expands to 203, the officials said.

Under the system, the designated industries will receive a subsidy when they relocate or temporarily lay off workers to tide over the recession.

MITI To Study Corporate Restructuring, Labor

*OW2910033493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0256 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) will research major companies' restructuring and employment measures to better gauge Japan's actual business conditions, the trade minister said Friday [29 October].

Hiroshi Kumagai said at a news conference, "with the unemployment rate worsening, the situation requires further caution on the economic outlook. We want to catch actual corporate conditions promptly."

The ministry will start a quarterly survey on industrial trends during the October-December period at the beginning of November, almost a month earlier than usual, officials said.

The survey will cover items related to employment and restructuring, such as transfers to affiliated firms, planned personnel cuts, and suspension of plants and equipment, they said.

The ministry is also considering expanding the number of companies, about 150, to be polled for the survey, they added.

Fewer Sep Job Openings Reported Available

*OW2910010093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0048 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—The ratio of job openings to job seekers continued declining and dropped to a seasonally adjusted 0.69 in September, down 0.01 point from the previous month, the Labor Ministry said in a monthly report released Friday [29 October]. The figure means there were 69 job offerings for every 100 job seekers in September.

Job openings decreased from a year earlier in almost all sectors, with those in the manufacturing sector dropping 30.1 percent and those in the wholesale-retail and food sector falling 22.9 percent.

Both the transportation and telecommunications sector and the service industry saw year-on-year declines of 13.9 percent in job offerings.

In contrast, the construction industry marked a 0.6 percent rise in job offerings.

The Management and Coordination Agency said in a separate monthly report the nation's unemployment rate in September rose 0.1 percentage point from the previous month to a seasonally adjusted 2.6 percent, the highest level since August 1988. However, this is still much lower than rates in other industrial nations, the agency said, though Japan's calculation methods are at variance with them.

The September unemployment rate in the United States stood at 6.7 percent, while that in Britain was 10.3 percent and in Canada 11.2 percent, the agency said.

Japan's unemployment rate for men in September remained unchanged from August at a seasonally adjusted 2.5 percent, while that for women rose 0.1 point to 2.7 percent.

The number of all unemployed in September reached 1.72 million, comprising 980,000 men and 740,000 women. The total figure increased by 250,000 or 17.0 percent from a year earlier.

The number of people with jobs in September totaled 64.93 million, up 150,000 or 0.2 percent from a year before.

The size of Japan's work force, including the unemployed, came to 66.65 million in September, up 400,000 or 0.6 percent from a year earlier.

The male work force was 39.51 million, up 390,000 or 1.0 percent from a year before, while the female work force increased by 10,000 or 0.04 percent to 27.14 million.

By industry, agriculture and forestry-related jobs amounted to 3.84 million, falling by 320,000 or 7.7 percent from a year earlier and manufacturing jobs decreased by 400,000 or 2.5 percent to 15.55 million.

Wholesale-retail and food services jobs also saw a decline of 70,000 or 0.5 percent to 14.34 million. In contrast, construction work increased by 150,000 or 2.4 percent to 6.48 million, and jobs in service industries rose by 600,000 or 4.1 percent to 15.23 million.

Minister: Latest Job Figures 'Extremely Bad'

*OW2910020293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0135 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—New labor figures showing the weakest ratio of job offers to seekers in six years are "extremely bad" and require fresh efforts to revive Japan's economy. Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii said Friday [29 October].

"Employment is the biggest problem facing the government now," Fujii told a press conference after a regular cabinet meeting.

Figures released by the Labor Ministry, showing fewer than seven job offers for every 10 seekers in September for the first time since July 1987, underscore the need to "steadily implement measures the government has undertaken so far," he said.

The government must "maximize its efforts" to quickly implement an April package of economic stimulus measures and budget funds for a September pump-priming package, he said.

Fujii also expressed concern about figures released Thursday by the Economic Planning Agency showing corporate and consumer sentiment for this year's last quarter slipping after improving in the previous quarter. But he repeated that the Finance Ministry does not see the economy headed for another decline.

Expressing agreement with central bank chief Yasushi Mieno that the downside risk has increased, Fujii nevertheless said, "I understand that the Bank of Japan governor does not mean the economy will go into a double-dip recession."

The government is determined to pay attention to further fiscal stimulus measures in formulating the fiscal 1994 budget toward the end of the year, he said.

The Finance Ministry will report import prices on 30 items later Friday to measure the effect of steps taken in September to pass on to consumers the benefits of the high yen, Fujii said.

Half of Firms in Survey Report Excess Workers

*OW2910084093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0801 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—One in two companies responding to a survey said they have a surplus of employees because of the prolonged economic slump, the Labor Ministry said Friday [29 October]. The survey quoted 46.3 percent as saying they have an excess of employees against only 4.2 percent with a shortage. The

remainder said they are satisfied with the size of their work force or did not answer the question.

The survey conducted by the ministry in mid-May covered 700 firms listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange of which about 100 responded.

Fifty-five percent of the responding firms said they have more managers aged 45-54 than they need, and 55 percent said the same for managers aged 55 or older. Plural answers were allowed. About 80 percent said they expect serious problems from having too many middle-aged and elderly white-collar employees. The remaining 20 percent did not anticipate such troubles or did not reply.

Thirty percent said they will reduce their work force within two to three years.

On ways of doing this, 25.9 percent said they will ask employees to be transferred to an affiliate or parent company, 18.5 percent will fill vacant positions from staff in another section of the firm and 3.7 percent will seek voluntary retirements.

Tokyo Voices 'Concern' Over Labor Situation

*OW2910041293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0341 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—Cabinet members Friday [29 October] voiced strong concern over the latest statistics showing the worst labor supply-demand balance in six years.

Key ministers expressed worries over a drop to 0.69 in the ratio of job openings to job seekers for September and agreed to tackle the problem with its every possible effort. The ratio means there were only 69 job openings for every 100 job seekers.

Labor Minister Chikara Sakaguchi told other cabinet members that the ministry will work out emergency labor policies in mid-November and longer-term policies by the end of the year.

Meeting the press after the cabinet meeting, Sakaguchi said the planned policies will be compiled by a project team to be set up on the day of key ministry officials including the vice minister.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura told a separate press conference that the labor problem will be one of the biggest themes when the government implements major economic restructuring in line with recommendations by a government panel to be published in December.

Manae Kubota, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, described the labor situation as "precarious," noting that the jobless rate is steadily approaching 3 percent. Speaking at a morning press conference, Kubota said the economy will remain in bad shape for

some more time, with the signals of recovery expected to appear only around next spring.

She said the effects of pump-priming the government has implemented so far will become manifest only in the final days of the current fiscal year ending next March 31.

Reorganization of Steel, Auto Sectors Urged

OW2910105693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1022 GMT
29 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO—The petrochemical, steel and auto industries should restructure and consider possible mergers and acquisitions, a senior Ministry of International Trade and Industry official said Friday [29 October].

The restructuring should not merely mean streamlining of each company, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. He pointed particularly at the petrochemical industry's need to reorganize, and criticized the auto industry for its excessive plant and equipment facilities.

The official said the steel industry, which said it would reduce production to 90 million tons per annum after the recession in the mid-1980s, eventually ended up leaving a 100-million-ton facility after the era of speculative asset inflation. He said he expected the industry would tackle the issue voluntarily by taking such measures as reducing excessive facilities and creating a joint distribution system.

He said the government cannot directly advise mergers and sectoral reorganization, but is capable of supporting such moves through setting tax incentives.

North Korea

U.S. Said To Conduct 'War Exercise' in South

SK2910134893 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1215 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] According to a military source, on 28 October the U.S. imperialists conducted a provocative aerial war exercise aimed at northward invasion by flying a large number of pursuit-assault planes, VTOL assault planes, and air refueling planes from overseas bases over the South Korean sky.

On the same day, scores of FA-18 and AV-8 fighters, which took off from a base in Japan, flew over Kunui, Yongwol, and Kapyong, and were mad about the exercise of striking targets inland of the northern half of the Republic in cooperation with fighters of the U.S. Air Forces occupying South Korea.

The frantic war exercise, which reeks with the powder, was conducted with a help of a KC-135 refueling plane, which took off from a base in Guam.

Greenpeace Cited on Nuclear Forum in Seoul

SK2810115093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012
GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 28 (KCNA)—Greenpeace, an international organization for environmental protection, condemned the "international symposium on advanced nuclear power systems" held in Seoul. Its member Shawn Burnie called a press conference in Seoul on October 19 and denounced the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] for having sponsored the symposium on a newer type of nuclear (?power) in Seoul and distributed an information of Greenpeace.

According to the information, Burnie said: "The IAEA headed by Hans Blix sponsored a symposium on the acceleration of the construction for plutonium production in Northeast Asia and on the Korean peninsula on the very day when he expressed concern over North Korea's plutonium nuclear program. The symposium must be cancelled at once."

The information noted:

The symposium was participated in by a Canadian company which provided reactors to North America, Europe and Japan to help them produce plutonium needed for the manufacture of nuclear bombs, a U.S. company which proposed a nuclear reactor rejected by the U.S. Congress for its threat to nuclear non-proliferation, and Japanese persons concerned with breeder reactors who had been a target of sharp criticism.

By organizing the symposium, the IAEA itself exposed the essential contradictions between the mythical "peaceful nuclear devices" and nuclear proliferation.

"If there is a 'progress' at the symposium, it is that the symposium has brought the danger of a nuclear war closer to this region," said Burnie.

IAEA Criticized for Sponsorship

SK2810142493 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0855 GMT 28 Oct 93

[28 October NODONG SINMUN commentary: "The Act of Inciting South Korea To Promote Nuclear Development"]

[Text] According to a report, the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] recently sponsored a so-called international symposium "On the Advanced Nuclear Power System" in South Korea.

It is said that a series of nuclear issues, including the issue concerning construction for plutonium production, was discussed there. International social circles [kukche sahoebye] suspect why the IAEA had to hold the symposium related with nuclear issues in South Korea where a grave nuclear issue exists.

Greenpeace, an international organization for the protection of the environment, published information

denouncing the symposium. Through the information, Greenpeace pointed out that the symposium was not only a meeting to incite South Korea to promote construction work for plutonium production, which has nothing to do with a scientific and technological issue, but also an impure meeting, which further aggravates the danger of a nuclear war in the Eastern Asia region.

South Korea is the largest nuclear weapon depot in the Far East, where the density of the deployment of nuclear weapons ranks first in the world. In addition, South Korea is a dangerous nuclear forward base of outside forces. Large-scale nuclear war exercises have been frequently conducted in South Korea. As a result, the danger of nuclear war is always hovering there.

In addition, the South Korean authorities are secretly promoting the development of nuclear weapons through their own strength. Judging from the fact that the IAEA general director once again brought up the issue of the suspicion of our nuclear development in the symposium, it is clear why the IAEA chose South Korea as the venue for discussing nuclear issues.

Ignoring our proposal for introducing a light-water reactor to basically resolve the issue of nuclear suspicion, the IAEA organized in Seoul an international symposium aimed at discussing a construction work for plutonium production. This is apparently intended to incite the South Korean authorities to develop nuclear weapons and further aggravate the situation on the Korean peninsula.

This is contrary to the mission and the purpose of the IAEA. Deprived of impartiality, neutrality, and objectivity by the impure elements of the IAEA, the IAEA threw mud at itself. It is a well-known fact that, to harm and isolate us, the impure elements of the IAEA conducted the farce of fabricating and conveying the letter of the UN secretary general at the 37th IAEA general assembly. Through the incident, the impure elements showed that they are the political tool and henchmen of the Western world. Thus, they were greatly disgraced internationally.

In spite of this, some impure elements of the IAEA committed once again the crime of positively participating in hostile forces' political plot to stifle our Republic at the symposium.

This is a challenge to our Republic's sincere efforts to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone and a deliberate act to lay an artificial stumbling bloc to the solution of the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula.

The impure elements of the IAEA cannot attain in any way their dirty purpose. Their scheme just proves that the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula can be resolved only through the DPRK-U.S. negotiations.

South Denounced for Soccer Delegates' Arrest

*SK2910054093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437
GMT 29 Oct 93*

[“NODONG SINMUN Lambastes S. Korean Authorities’ Suppression of Students”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, October 29 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities recently arrested two delegates of the Seoul District Federation of General Student Councils (Sochongnyon) including the chairman of the general student council of Seoul National University who were heading for Panmunjom to participate in working-level talks for Pyongyang-Seoul student soccer games.

NODONG SINMUN today bitterly denounced the South Korean authorities who put on the altar of fascism justice-minded students desirous of national reconciliation, unity and reunification, labelling them as fascist dictators wearing the “civilian” veil and anti-national, anti-reunification elements.

The analyst says:

Students of the North and the South wanted to hold Pyongyang-Seoul soccer games out of the patriotic desire to broaden the way of non-governmental independent dialogue between the North and the South, consolidate the foundation of the great unity of the whole nation and encourage the fellow countrymen longing for reunification. There is no ground to brandish a sword at them.

The South Korean students and people will never pardon the “civilian” fascists, anti-reunification elements going against dialogue and reunification.

South's Red Cross Urged To Repatriate POW's

*SK2910120593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005
GMT 29 Oct 93*

[“Old Men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan Must Be Returned to Their Families and Relatives”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, October 29 (KCNA)—The South Korean Red Cross must actively cooperate without delay in the realization of the application of old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan, unconverted long-term prisoners, for their repatriation to the North, in compliance with the intrinsic mission of the Red Cross, urges NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the DPRK requested the South Korean Red Cross to take a measure for the return of Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan to the northern half of the country where their families and relatives live. The South Korean Red Cross, however, has not answered this request, though half a month has passed.

The article says:

The two old men in South Korea, being POWs, should have been repatriated to the North right after the ceasefire.

Kim In-so, 67, was taken prisoner in the winter of 1951 and kept behind bars for 33 years and seven months for the mere reason that he refused ideological conversion.

Ham Se-hwan, 62, was taken prisoner in June 1953 and kept in prison for 34 years.

It was an unjustifiable act to exclude them from the list of the POWs to be repatriated when POWs were exchanged with the signing of Korean Armistice Agreement.

They left their native places in their young age and now they have no flesh and blood in South Korea to look after them in their sickly old age.

Their earnest wish is reunification and their return to the northern half of the country where their families and relatives reside before death.

Kim Hwa-sim, eldest daughter of Kim In-so, parted with her father at the age of five, and is now the head of a chair of Pyongyang University of foreign studies. **Kim Chong-sim**, his second daughter who parted with him when she was five months old, is the director of the Munhung kindergarten, Kangdong County, Pyongyang Municipality. These daughters and his younger sister and nephews and nieces are waiting for him in the North.

Ham Suk-yo, sister of ham Se-hwan, and his nephews and nieces are demanding his repatriation.

To lessen the misfortunes and sufferings of old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan, unconverted long-term prisoners, at an early date and send them back to the northern half of the country so they may spend the remainder of their lives with their families and relatives in peace is a natural thing either from the humanitarian point of view and in view of compatriotism and is in full accord with the demand of the international law on POWs.

Group Demands Release of Sochongnyon Delegates

SK2810123993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044
GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 28 (KCNA)—The Pyongyang Municipal Student Committee strongly urges the South Korean authorities to lend an ear to the indignant voices of students in the North and South, release the delegates of the Seoul District Federation of General Student Councils (Sochongnyon) unconditionally and immediately and stop the illegal suppression of the pro-reunification patriotic students under the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils at once.

This demand is made in a statement issued by the spokesman of the Pyongyang Municipal Student Committee today, denouncing the South Korean authorities for having walked away the delegates of Sochongnyon

who intended to attend working-level talks for the Pyongyang-Seoul student soccer games.

The spokesman branded the mean arrest of the students by the South Korean authorities as a downright challenge to the pure pro-reunification patriotic will of students in the North and South and bitterly denounced it in the name of the entire students in Pyongyang and the whole nation.

One spokesman warned that if the South Korean rulers persistently blocked the meeting of students of the North and South, their unanimous desire, going against the trend of the times and history, they will face a stern judgement by the 70 million Koreans as the enemy of reunification.

Daily Criticizes ROK President's Remarks

SK2810120793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023
GMT 28 Oct 93

[“Impudent and Indiscreet Rigmarole”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, October 28 (KCNA)—The South Korean ruler, Kim Yong-sam, at a recent “talk” with Japanese media delegates, droveled about the “nuclear problem” of the North and “sanctions” against it and, when he met a foreign president, asked him to recommend “a political reform” and “opening to the outside world” to the North.

MINJU CHOSON today brands this as an unpardonable treachery to hurt the fellow countrymen in collusion with foreign forces.

The news analyst says:

Still more serious is that he slandered the North over the fictitious “nuclear problem” at a time when it had become clear that the basic way of solving the nuclear problem of the Korean peninsula is talks between the DPRK and the United States.

Now the world considers that the nuclear problem of the Korean peninsula must be solved through DPRK-U.S. talks.

The South Korean authorities, however, are getting overheated in the “nuclear row” against the North. They seek in this to bar a peaceful solution to the nuclear problem of the Korean peninsula by obstructing the resumption of the talks.

Kim Yong-sam cried for the North’s “reform” and “opening”. But it is South Korea that needs “reform” and “opening”.

South Korea must carry out a reform to get rid of foreign domination and subjugation and achieve independence and remove fascist dictatorship and realize democratisation.

It must not talk about the "opening" of the North but broach the topic of destroying the physical, legal and political barriers blocking national reconciliation and reunification.

All the facts go to prove that the "civilian government" is an anti-national, anti-reunification treacherous "regime" pursuing a policy of dependence on foreign forces and North-South confrontation like the "Fifth and Sixth Republics."

Kim Yong-sam must stop immediately his treacherous acts of aggravating the North-South relations and obstructing reunification.

ROK Resident Cited Praising Kim Chong-il

*SK2810113593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008
GMT 28 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 28 (KCNA)—The South Korean people feel national honor and pride in having the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the leader of the nation.

A Choe residing in Pusan who had been abroad as a technical trainee praised Mr. Kim Chong-il as a peerless, great man with brilliant wisdom, rare intelligence and noble virtues and an illustrious leader of the nation possessed of the qualities of a leader.

A pressman in Seoul recollects his visit to the northern half of the country in 1985 accompanying a home-visiting group. He said:

"I felt the powerful pulse of the national soul whenever I saw such attractive slogans representing the national stamina as 'Let us model the whole society on the chuche idea!' 'Let us meet the requirements of chuche in ideology, technology and culture!' And 'Let us live our own way!'

"I admired the great leadership of Mr. Kim Chong-il when I learned that with such slogans he is wisely leading all the people in the North to live their own way with national spirit and faith, will and traits."

Prof. Kim of a university in Pusan said: "The prosperity of the nation depends on the role of the leader. The North is exalting the national prestige in the world as a land of chuche displaying its dignity with independence and prospering with self-reliance because it is guided by Mr. Kim Chong-il."

Foreign Party Leaders Greet Kim Chong-il

*SK2910121693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017
GMT 29 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 29 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of greetings from foreign party leaders on the occasion of the 48th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK].

The messages came from president of the Pakistan Socialist Party C.R. Aslam; Secretary general of the Central Committee of the Nepal Communist League Sambaran Shrestha, president of the National Republican Movement for the Democracy and Development of Rwanda Ngirumpatse Mathieu, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Nasser People's Unity Organization of Yemen Abdul Ghani Sabit, secretary general of the Popular Liberation Movement of Angola Lopo Fortunato Ferreira do Nascimento, Chairperson Argelia Raya and International Secretary Jorge Valero of the Venezuelan Movement to Socialism, leader of the Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana Peter Persand, president of the National Executive Committee of the Left Revolutionary Union of Peru Angel Castro Lavallejo, national coordinator of the Leftist Democratic Movement of Peru Oscar Ugarte Ubilluz, and chairman of the Central Committee of the Brazilian Communist Party Joao Amazonas.

The messages say that the socialist cause is firmly defended and is vigorously advancing as well by the singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses in Korea under the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

They express the hope that the friendly relations between their parties and the WPK will be strengthened and developed.

Commentary Warns Japan Against Rearmament

*SK2910052593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433
GMT 29 Oct 93*

[“They Will Get Nothing Good”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, October 29 (KCNA)—The Japanese authorities including Prime Minister Hosokawa, charging the DPRK with the "nuclear problem" again, cried that they would "cope with" it in "cooperation" with the United States and South Korea and even attempted to threaten the DPRK with outcries for "international sanctions".

NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today warns that if the Japanese authorities try to convert Japan into a military power and arm it with nuclear weapons, persistently provoking the DPRK, it will not bring good results to them. Advising them to act with discretion, the analyst says:

The nuclear problem of the Korean peninsula is, by nature, a question that should be solved between the United States which is directly responsible for it and the DPRK and it is not a matter into which Japan should poke its nose.

It is beyond doubt that Japan is stockpiling more plutonium than necessary for the purpose of manufacturing nuclear weapons.

It is not the DPRK but Japan that seeks the manufacture of nuclear weapons and so nuclear threat comes to the DPRK from Japan. This is why the Asian people are watching Japan with sharp vigilance.

Such being the situation, the Japanese reactionary ruling quarters are trying to justify by all means their drive for building Japan into a military power and arm it with nuclear weapons.

In impudently meddling in the nuclear problem of the Korean peninsula and kicking up a row against the DPRK on groundless charges, they intend to find a pretext for realising their wild ambition for the conversion of Japan into a military power and for its nuclear armament.

But such ruse of the Japanese authorities cannot work at all.

Czech Embassy Hosts Reception on National Day

SK2910052493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0428

GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 29 (KCNA)—Milan Hupcei, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Czech Embassy here, hosted a reception Thursday on the national day of Czech.

Invited to the reception were officials concerned and diplomatic envoys of different countries here.

WPK Delegation Leaves for Denmark, Ireland

SK2910123393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040

GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 28 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] led by Yi Yong-su, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, left here today for Denmark and Ireland.

It was seen off at the airport by Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee.

Nepal Party Leader Sends Telegram to WPK

SK2910121393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010

GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 29 (KCNA)—Madhav Kumar Nepal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxism-Leninism), in a telegram to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] wished the Korean people greater success in the struggle to reunify the country and build Korean-style socialism under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

He noted that the Korean communists have enforced the lines and policies suited to the specific conditions of the country, always maintaining the independent stand and creative stand.

"The Korean communists have always guarded against the leftist tendency of dogmatically accepting Marxism and the rightist tendency of renouncing the class nature and revolutionary principle of Marxism and falling into defeatism," he said, and noted:

"You have successfully developed and enriched the idea, theory and policy to meet the demand of the changing international and domestic situation, resolutely opposing and rejecting the tendency of imitating the idea and experience of other countries. This is a model we should follow.

"If the communists are to make Marxism and the socialist principle more powerful and vital and successfully develop the communist movement, keeping the political leadership, the Communist Party of each country should develop the idea, theory and policy suited to the changing situation and creatively apply and develop Marxism in conformity with the specific conditions of each country."

Realization of Leader's Rural Theses Praised

SK2910051193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421

GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 29 (KCNA)—It was noted with high pride at a meeting of the Political Bureau of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea held some time ago that the Korean people had achieved a great victory in socialist rural construction along the road indicated by the rural theses over the past 30 years and turned the idea of the theses into a proud reality under the wise guidance of the party and the leader.

A grand national agricultural meeting which will be held to review the great victory of the rural theses and colorful functions be organised to significantly celebrate the anniversary of the publication of the theses.

In "Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country" published on February 25, 1964, the great leader President Kim Il-song comprehensively expounded the essential content of the socialist rural question, the basic principles of its solution, the tasks for the building of the socialist countryside and the ways for their fulfilment.

With the successful realisation of the socialist rural theses, tremendous changes have taken place in the countryside of Korea and its looks changed completely.

The agricultural working people are acquiring noble traits of new-type people, chuch'e-type communists, freed from the outdated idea and old habits left over by the exploiter society. They are firmly equipped with the chuch'e idea and united in one mind around the party and the leader in ideology and purpose and moral obligation.

The farmers of Korea do farming on a scientific and technical basis more easily and joyously. Irrigation and

electrification have been completed, the comprehensive mechanization and widespread use of chemicals in agriculture have reached a high stage and agricultural production has rapidly developed on the basis of modern science and technology with a thorough application of the chuche method of farming.

The general standard of knowledge and technical and cultural level of the farmers have risen considerably, the ranks of agro-technicians and specialists have increased greatly and the rural villages have taken on new looks of a socialist modern countryside beautiful and good to live in. Water service, bus service and TV networks have been introduced and clinics turned into hospitals in the rural villages. So, the gap between town and country in cultural living conditions has been narrowed, and a noble and optimistic socialist cultural and emotional life is in full bloom in every village.

The three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, have been vigorously accelerated in the countryside and rural construction has made a rapid progress under the active guidance and assistance of the party and the state and thus the socialist rural economy system has been strengthened and the countryside is drawing closer to the level of town in all spheres.

Under the chuche-based agricultural guidance system with the county cooperative farm management committee as the core the guidance and management of the rural economy is being constantly improved and the guiding role of all-people ownership over cooperative ownership has increased and thus the distinctions between town and country are being removed successfully in the form of management and ownership.

The historic experience of the last 30 years convincingly proves that "Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country" is the only just guideline in clearing away the backwardness left over in the countryside and successfully solving the rural question after the establishment of socialist system and only when one advances along the road indicated by the rural theses, can he defend socialism and bring it to a brilliant completion without the slightest deviation and turns and twists.

Kim Chong-il Thanks to Workers for Good Deeds

*SK2910051493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427
GMT 29 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 29 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the workers of the Sinuiju shipbuilding yard who had built and sent new passenger and cargo boats to Pungso county, Yang-gang Province, and to the officials of the citizens education department of the Pyongyang municipal radio broadcasting committee and the DPRK radio and TV broadcasting committee who had deepened Army-people feelings of kinship.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also extended thanks to Pak Ung-chon, secretary of the Sinpyong county party committee, who had taken good care of a disabled soldier, Kang Chong-hui, a worker of the Soho fishery station, who became a dependable companion of a disabled soldier, No Tok-chan, a worker of the Pyongyang municipal Sadong general machine plant, who is bringing up an orphaned child like his own child, and Kim Ok-sun, a saleswoman of the Songhwa shop No.2 of the Sadong district commercial management office, Pyongyang municipality, who is supporting a lonely old woman like her own mother.

Their deeds well show the advantages of our socialist system under which the people live a harmonious life as one large family, helping and leading each other forward.

KCNA Reports 'Great Upswing' in Production

*SK2910124393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034
GMT 29 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 29 (KCNA)—The working people of Korea are effecting a great upswing in production with the approach of the elections to the provincial (municipal) people's assemblies slated for Nov. 21.

The coal miners of the Anju District coal mining complex overfulfilled their assignments 20 percent in all indices including production and tunnelling in the last week.

The thermal power stations in South Pyongan Province have these days increased the production 10 percent as against the same period last year by operating all equipment at full capacity. The last ten-day output is 30 percent higher than the first ten days of the month.

The Sariwon mining machine plant has kept a high and steady rate of production this year. These days the plant has been overfulfilling its daily quotas 20 percent.

The lumber-jacks under the Ministry of Forestry have built motor-ways and railways extending hundreds of kilometres and are stepping up final preparations for the timber production in winter.

The farmers across the country, having harvested bumper crops this year, are overfulfilling their assignments in thrashing. Thrashing is near completion with all thrashing machines operated at full capacity on the farms in Tokchon City, South Pyongan Province, and in the suburbs of Pyongyang.

KCNA Notes Emperor's Personal Letter Found

*SK2810152393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511
GMT 28 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 28 (KCNA)—A personal letter of the Korean Emperor Kojong declaring the "Ulsan Five-point Treaty" forged by the Japanese imperialists in 1905 invalid in view of international law was recently discovered at the library of Columbia University in New York, according to reports from Seoul. The personal

letter dated June 22, 1906, is addressed to the heads of state of nine powers including the United States, Russia, U.K., France and Germany. The upper part of the letter is written in Korean alphabet and its lower part in English. It bears the seal of the state and signature of Emperor Kojong.

In the letter Kojong declares that he, as the emperor empowered to ratify a treaty, had not authorized the ministers of the court to sign the "Ulsa Five-point Treaty" and the Japanese side forged the "treaty" after taking ministers into custody. "Such being the case, it is against the public law to claim that the treaty has been concluded. So the treaty is naturally invalid," the emperor states. And he says that he, as the emperor, "will decidedly refuse to consent to the treaty in any case."

Kojong in the letter says, if any country claimed he, the emperor, "approved the treaty" in the future, the heads of state of other countries "should not believe it or lend an ear to it" but "should consider it groundless."

Kojong also manifests his intention to file a suit against the crimes of the Japanese imperialists at the international court to prove the invalidity of the "Ulsa Five-point Treaty."

This personal letter of Emperor Kojong was reportedly found by a professor of Seoul University staying at Harvard University.

As reported, the original text of the "Ulsa Five-point Treaty" without the signature of the emperor or the seal of the state was discovered at the royal archives in Seoul last year, making it all the clearer that the "treaty" had been totally forged by the Japanese imperialists. And, with the discovery of the personal letter of the then Korean emperor addressed to the heads of state of different countries this time, exposing its brigandish fabrication by the Japanese imperialists, it has been all the more undeniably proved that the "treaty" was invalid from the very beginning in view of international law.

Pyongyang Called Cradle of Korean Nation

SK2810125693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031
GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 28 (KCNA)—The Korean people, irrespective of their birthplace, are the posterity of the same ancestry who owe their origin to the human fossil discovered in the suburbs of Pyongyang and are the direct descendants of Korea of Tangun who founded the first ancient state in Pyongyang and achieved the commonness of the fellow countrymen.

Dr. Chang U-chin, a room chief of the Archaeological Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences, says this in an article contributed to NODONG SINMUN today.

He says:

The remains of Tangun were discovered at his tomb and it was made clear on a scientific basis that he is an actual

historical person. It is an epoch-making event in proving the long history and homogeneity of the Korean nation.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said:

"Our people are a resourceful people with a long history and brilliant tradition of culture."

The long, proud history of the Korean nation began with Pyongyang as its basis, including not only the history of civilization which started from the founding of the first ancient state but also the origin of its history stretching up to the dawn of human history.

According to ascertained archaeological materials, Pyongyang, the capital of [word indistinct] the first ancient state founded by Tangun, was the regional basis and centre in achieving the homogeneity of the fellow countrymen in our country. The history of civilization began in Pyongyang and the homogeneity of the fellow countrymen was also formed with Pyongyang as the centre. So, Pyongyang is the birthplace of the Korean nation.

Pyongyang is also the birthplace of the ancestors of the Korean nation.

It is well illustrated by the fact that the oldest remains showing the origin of the Korean nation's history have been discovered around Pyongyang and the fossil remains of ancestors are concentrically distributed there.

Human fossils are concentrically distributed in the basin of the River Taedong around Pyongyang. In this area there took place a process of human evolution through which primitive man evolved into early paleolithic man, who developed into late paleolithic man and then into a man like the contemporary person.

The human fossils, "Tokchon man" unearthed in 1973 and "Yokpo man" in 1977, belong to early paleolithic man.

Pyongyang is the cradle of the Korean nation because the commonness of the blood of Koreans and the original qualities of the nation were formed around Pyongyang.

One morphological ground of the common blood of modern Koreans is that a Korean of any period and of any place, has a very high skull and not so high face bone and a flat-standing forehead, not a sloping one.

Such features can be seen in "Mandal man" and "Yonggok man," human fossils belonging to the stage of late paleolithic man unearthed in Pyongyang.

This means that the Korean nation was born in Pyongyang and has been a homogeneous nation with Pyongyang as the centre.

Therefore, we can confirm that Pyongyang was the centre and source of the long history of the Korean nation.

South Korea

DPRK, U.S. Said Agreed on New Round of Talks
*SK2910123893 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean
 1200 GMT 29 Oct 93*

[By correspondent Yi Tong-sik from Beijing]

[Text] After holding several recent contacts in New York, North Korea and the United States have agreed to hold the third round of North Korea-U.S. high-level talks in November or early December, China's XINHUA reported, quoting North Korea's NODONG SINMUN. According to NODONG SINMUN, North Korea and the United States held working-level contacts several times in New York and discussed a package settlement on the nuclear question. The issue concerning the U.S. recognition of North Korea is included in the agenda for the package settlement.

Daily Urges Prudent Negotiations With North
*SK2810140793 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
 28 Oct 93 p 3*

[Editorial: "Beware Before It Is Too Late"]

[Text] We have a saying that an intelligent man learns from history while a foolish one learns from experience. Another of our sayings states that there are two types of negotiations—one with an ally and the other with a hostile country. With whom are we now negotiating? Furthermore, are we negotiating as intelligent or foolish men? It seems that the time has come for a thorough self-reflection.

In analyzing recent press reports, we get the impression that a breakthrough is likely in negotiations with North Korea. Apparently, some progress was made in the recent U.S.-North Korean contacts, and an agreement in views was reached at the recent working-level contact between the North and the South for exchanging special envoys. Even minor progress in these contacts is better than nothing. It is even better if such progress is conducive to solving the issue of North Korea's nuclear development. Such being the case, the government is not hesitating in offering to suspend the Team Spirit military exercise and to not oppose the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and North Korea, in addition to offering a package settlement of issues.

However, let us ponder over this problem. We should realize that the target of our negotiations is none other than the North Korean regime, and we should have learned from history that it is very difficult to negotiate with communists. What were the lessons we attained from the ceasefire talks during the Korean war, the North-South talks held in the wake of the 4 July North-South joint statement, and the North-South high-level talks which produced the North-South Basic Agreement?

We have keenly experienced how North Korea, in its moves to achieve its final goal of a communist revolution, employs the cunning technique of reaching an agreement it has no intention of abiding by. This is precisely the lesson we should learn from. Such being the case, we would like to question whether the government is not overestimating North Korea's negotiation gestures and mistaking North Korea for an ally who will abide by the terms of an agreement.

Also, if the government needs yet another experience to be enlightened, it will prove itself to be the fool who learns only from experience, rather than from history. We cannot understand which side is actually being driven into a corner. How is it that the receiving end of the North Korean side's proposal to exchange special envoys is making more of an effort [to yolu ollinun] by making it a condition to a third round of U.S.-North Korean talks?

Regarding the issue of resuming the ad hoc inspections of North Korea's nuclear facilities alone, the government takes the stance that, if North Korea meets about 70 percent of the demands our government brought up before North Korea withdrew from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, it will accept the North Korea's position on ad hoc inspections. Worse yet, the government has left the issue of special inspections of North Korea's nuclear facilities to be decided at the third round of the U.S.-North Korean talks. Accordingly, it is certain that the original purpose of nuclear negotiations is now shaken. We can guess the reason. That is to say, this is due to the internal circumstances of the Clinton's administration that has shown its vulnerability in foreign policy.

The government has made many mistakes. Nonetheless, the government is now revealing information about the discontinuation of Team Spirit. Furthermore, the government is saying that the UN sanctions against North Korea should be avoided. Indeed, it seems that only President Kim Yong-sam has a consistent and firm stance toward North Korea's nuclear issue and that other officials do not have a consistent stance. We are concerned about this. Our government should clearly know North Korea's intention. Certainly, the government may know that North Korea wants the discontinuation of Team Spirit and that it also intends to dissolve and weaken the ROK-U.S. joint defense system. If the government learns from the history of North Korea's negotiation strategies, it can know what activity it is now conducting.

DPRK Not To Accept IAEA Demand for Inspections

*SK2910021093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0154 GMT
 29 Oct 93*

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 29 (YONHAP)—North Korea recently notified the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that it will not accept a demand for ad hoc and routine inspections, an official said Friday.

North Korea has protested in a letter to the agency over the scheduled annual report by IAEA Director-General Han Blix to the United Nations on Nov. 1 and reports that the security council may adopt sanctions against it, the official said.

The letter warned that inspections are impossible under such circumstances, he said.

Blix is to meet with U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright and other senior diplomats before the Nov. 1 briefing.

Blix's report to the United Nations is likely to emphasize that North Korea is hampering the agency's ability to verify that there is no illicit nuclear development program going on there.

Some officials predict that Blix's briefing could heighten the pressure on North Korea and send the international mood toward sanctions.

IAEA Says Resolution To Urge DPRK Compliance

SK2910064693 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean
0600 GMT 29 Oct 93

[By Vienna correspondent Cha Man-sun]

[Text] The UN General Assembly will reportedly discuss the North Korean nuclear issue and adopt a resolution against North Korea irrespective of the frequent contacts between the United States and North Korea. The UN General Assembly will hear a report from International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] Director General Hans Blix on how North Korea, Iraq, South Africa, and other countries have implemented the nuclear agreement and will adopt a resolution to express its official position on North Korea and other countries that have failed to implement the nuclear agreement.

A high-ranking IAEA source said that the resolution to be adopted at the UN General Assembly will express grave concern over North Korea's failure to implement the nuclear agreement and strongly urge North Korea to implement the nuclear agreement.

The resolution will reportedly state: If North Korea does not receive the IAEA's tentative inspection [imsi sachal] and routine inspection [tongsang sachal] by the end of this month, the continuity of the IAEA's inspections will not be ensured. Therefore, the North Korean nuclear issue must be sent to the UN Security Council to take a countermeasure.

This source also said that unless North Korea affirmatively reacts to the implementation of the nuclear agreement sooner or later, the UN Security Council, following the UN General Assembly, will have no choice but to take a countermeasure irrespective of the recent contacts between the United States and North Korea.

Meanwhile, it has been reported that North Korea indirectly expressed its intention to accept the IAEA's inspections during its contact with the United States. However, it has not been known to what extent North Korea said it would accept the IAEA's nuclear inspection.

DPRK Reportedly Sent Letter to UN on 25 Oct

SK2910032593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0252 GMT
29 Oct 93

[YONHAP transmits this item with the following editor's note: "Following substitutes for earlier YONHAP story slugged North Korea-IAEA—P'yang sends letter of protest to UN over nuke issue"]

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 29 (YONHAP)—North Korea has sent a letter of protest to the United Nations as the world body is moving to adopt a resolution against North Korea based on the report filed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a South Korean Government official said Friday [29 October].

The official said the UN resolution on the North Korean nuclear issue could come at a General Assembly meeting early next month.

"The North Korean Mission to the United Nations sent the letter of protest to UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on Oct. 25," the official said, requesting anonymity.

The official said, however, he did not know whether North Korea has recently notified the IAEA that it will not accept a demand for ad hoc and routine inspections.

"I don't know anything about it so far," he said.

Ministers on North Nuclear Issue, Military

SK2910105493 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean
0900 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Responding to a question posed on 29 October, Han Wan-sang, deputy prime minister and minister of the Board of National Unification, said that if North Korea guarantees nuclear transparency and North Korea's nuclear issue is resolved peacefully, the government may prudently examine a package settlement on the nuclear issue, including the suspension of the Team Spirit military exercise.

He said that North Korea is using its nuclear development as a card to improve relations with the United States. Therefore, the government is making its utmost efforts to resolve North's nuclear issue as soon as possible and without creating tensions between the South and North.

If North Korea's nuclear issue is resolved, Deputy Prime Minister Han said that the ROK will consider discussing with North Korea the issue of the free exchange of visits to the South and North by separated families through an

exit and entry control at Panmunjom, and direct visits by fellow countrymen overseas.

Answering questions. Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae revealed that it seems that North Korea extracted plutonium on three occasions from a radioactive chemical laboratory and is conducting detonating tests and developing scud missiles, a stage right before nuclear weapons are developed. He said that the government will establish a joint intelligence system with the United States and related organizations such as the Foreign Ministry and the Agency for National Security Planning to deal with this matter.

Minister Kwon said that if North Korea's NODONG-1 and NODONG-2 missiles are conventional warheads, which can load as much as 1,000 tonnes of TNT, then their destructive power is one-seventh of that of the Phantom plane and the damage radius is less than 900 meters. Nevertheless, if they load nuclear weapons or chemical warheads, it can become a serious threat.

Minister Kwon also said that the military is seeking various measures to deal with this matter such as blocking the firing of the NODONG-1 and NODONG-2 missiles by attacking the firing base with an air strike or ground-to-ground missiles in case of an emergency; shooting down the NODONG-1 and NODONG-2 missiles with ground-to-air missiles; and minimizing damage even if the NODONG-1 and NODONG-2 missiles hit the target's eye on the ground.

Minister Kwon said that North Korea has not built underground airstrips yet, but it has already built underground airplane sheds in 20 areas and also has emergency airstrips in various areas where airplanes are able to take off right after being armed, and that preparations are being made for underground launchings. Minister Kwon also revealed that two emergency airstrips have been under construction recently, including the Onchon airport.

Further Ministers' Remarks Noted

*SK291012093 Seoul YONHAP in English 1103 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 29 (YONHAP)—Prime Minister Hwang In-song on Friday ruled out the possibility of South Korea possessing nuclear enrichment reprocessing facilities under the present circumstances.

"To possess such facilities now may serve to justify North Korea's nuclear development and is prone to harm our international credibility in terms of the peaceful use of atomic energy," Hwang said.

While testifying at a National Assembly interpellation session, the premier said it is true that the inter-Korean denuclearization declaration prohibits the possession of enrichment reprocessing facilities by both parties. But, he said, this does not mean the South has given up nuclear-related technology development or the use of nuclear fuel.

"When nuclear proliferation is successfully contained and conditions are fully fostered for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the issue of nuclear enrichment reprocessing facilities would be resolved as a matter of course," Hwang said.

Also testifying at the assembly session, Deputy Prime Minister Han Wan-sang said, "North Korea is believed to possess a specific amount of nuclear material necessary for the development nuclear weapons."

In the wake of their withdrawal from the nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, Han said, North Korea has been concentrating on improving relations with the United States, using the nuclear question as a negotiation card.

Han, who is also the National Unification minister, said that even if inspections of North Korean nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were realized, the North Korean nuclear issues cannot be resolved without mutual nuclear inspections between the two Koreas.

He said that the Seoul government has no intent of absorbing North Korea to accomplish national unification.

"But we are prepared for all eventualities including the possible rapid collapse of the North Korean system due to its internal problems," Han said.

Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae, in his testimony, said there are no underground military airstrips in North Korea. "But, they do have underground aircraft hangars at about 20 military airfields," Kwon said.

He said emergency airstrips have been built at several places in the North, which he said enables war planes to be armed and otherwise prepared for take-off in underground hangars and directly take off once out of hangars.

Kwon also said that 60 percent of the North Korean ground forces and 65 percent of all naval vessels are deployed in areas South of the Pyongyang-Wonsan line.

Vice Foreign Minister Hong Sun-yong, also at the assembly session, said North Korea has raised no demand formally or informally for the withdrawal of U.S. Forces in South Korea.

"At any rate, the presence of the U.S. Forces in Korea has nothing to do with the nuclear question," Hong said.

"It is just unthinkable that we study possible U.S. military withdrawal in return for the resolution of the nuclear question."

DPRK Promises Safety of ROK Players at Games

*SK2810132293 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in
Korean 1224 GMT 28 Oct 93*

[Text] Yi Kang-pyong, honorary director of the Korea Olympic Committee, returned home today after attending a consultation meeting for the East Asian Games, which was held in Pyongyang on 24-25 October.

According to him, (Kim Kwan-chol), vice chairman of North Korea's Olympic Committee, promised to guarantee the personal safety of the players from the ROK and seven other countries that will participate in the East Asian Games. Yi said that (Kim) had assured that North Korea would guarantee the personal safety of ROK players, in particular.

Board Notes Rise in DPRK Dependence on China
*SK2910053893 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
29 Oct 93 p 2*

[Text] North Korea's import of grain is increasing greatly and its economic dependence on China is deepening, an analysis released by the National Unification Board revealed yesterday. In this situation, economic sanctions against the North are expected to be ineffective without the participation of China.

According to "Trade Trends in North Korea in the First Half of 1993," the total trade of the North reached \$1.5 billion, and imports of food and energy and exports of steel have increased notably.

Pyongyang's trade with China, which has been its biggest trade partner since 1991, took up 22.8 percent of the total, a 39 percent increase over the same period of last year.

Imports increased 22.9 percent and exports soared 74.7 percent over last year, reaching about \$315 million and \$160 million respectively.

North Korea's main items of import from China were, the document said, grain, crude oil and chemical products, and export items were iron and steel goods.

Among import items, grain has already exceeded the total amount of last year, \$68 million, hitting \$74 million and reflecting a serious food shortage.

According to an official of the Unification Ministry, North Korean supply fell short of demand by over 2.31 million tons of grain including rice, corn and flour. Considering the imported amount from China reaching about 640,000 ton, the North still needs more than 1.67 million tons of grain.

The export of iron and steel products, which amounted to only \$29 million in 1987, increased to \$87 million this year.

Japan Protests Media Coverage on Waste Dumping

*SK2910095893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0554 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 29 (YONHAP)—Japan lodged a strong protest Friday [29 October] at what it called "emotional" and "inaccurate" reports by the South Korean media about Tokyo's discharge of radioactive waste into the East Sea [Sea of Japan].

"The press has been reporting as if Japan breached an international agreement and was engaged in harmful activities," Gotaro Ogawa, minister for public information at the Japanese Embassy in Seoul, told a press conference.

"Such escalation of distrust is no help to forward-looking relations between South Korea and Japan.

"All power plants, including those in South Korea, make same kind of discharge," Ogawa said. "But the press reports make no mention of this."

"The discharge is completely within normal operation of the power plants and in compliance with international standards. We will continue to make the discharge from our plants," he said.

The embassy released a statement that the level of radioactive discharge last year into the east sea was well within safety limits and that it was "controled discharge," not dumping as done by Russia.

It says that tritium, a radioactive isotope, released by its Kashiwazaki-Kariwa power plant is basically a coolant and not comparable to the nuclear waste dumped by Russia.

It is unfair to simply compare the amount of waste without considering what it comprised, the statement says. Russia's act constitutes dumping, throwing away harmful substances like strontium, cobalt and cesium.

Japan has officially explained that the tritium released by the Japanese power plant last year was 10 curies (390 million becquerels), well below the limit of 380 curies.

Japan, although it abstained at a vote by the London Dumping Convention (LDC) in 1985 for a moratorium on nuclear waste dumping, has adhered to it, Ogawa said.

Talks on Fishing in Okhotsk Sea at Deadlock

*SK2910014093 Seoul YONHAP in English 2351 GMT
28 Oct 93*

[Text] Moscow, Oct. 28 (YONHAP)—The conference on fishing in the Okhotsk Sea between Russia and other fishing countries, including South Korea, ended in deadlock Thursday after two days of fruitless talks. The second multilateral conference, which was also attended by Japan, China, Poland and other fishing countries, mainly discussed the question of the preservation of marine resources.

Russia insisted that the measure it took unilaterally in June, banning fishing in the open sea, was in order to protect the fish resources and has to be maintained. It indicated that it has no intention of lifting the ban by saying that its measure would be in place until Russia reaches an agreement with the fishing nations.

Against the Russian position, South Korea and other countries denounced Moscow, claiming that it wants to

ban fishing in the Okhotsk indefinitely as it did not even honor the agreement reached at the first conference in May, calling for a 25-percent reduction in catches by all fishing countries.

With the failure in the talks, fishing countries are moving toward forcing a confrontation with Russia by resuming fishing in international waters in the Okhotsk.

Russia has threatened that it will block further fishing in the Okhotsk with strong measures, including naval exercises in the area.

South Korean fishing boats have been catching about 300,000 tons of pollack, but because of the ban, they have not been fishing since April.

Demand for pollack in South Korea is estimated at about 500,000 tons a year and if Korean fishing boats cannot catch them in the Okhotsk, the country will have to spend about 100 million U.S. dollars to import them.

Government Appoints Head of Mission in Taiwan

*SK2910111493 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
29 Oct 93 p 1*

[By reporter Yu Kwang-chong from Hong Kong]

[Text] Han Chol-su, former ROK Ambassador to Taiwan, has been designated as head of the ROK mission in Taiwan. The designation, along with the time when the permanent missions are to be established in the ROK and Taiwan, has been the target of people's attention.

Respecting the relations between the two countries, the ROK designated Mr. Han as an ambassador-level envoy. He served as ROK ambassador to Taiwan from 1988-91 and maintained a broad range of close relations with figures in political and economic circles in Taiwan.

The ROK mission in Taiwan will hold a signboard-hanging ceremony early next month at the latest.

On the other hand, Taiwan has appointed Lin Tsun-hsiew, incumbent Taiwan ambassador to Grenada, as the first head of the mission in Seoul. Taiwan is now looking for an office in Kyobo or downtown Seoul.

Opposition Wants 'Sweeping' Cabinet Reshuffle

*SK2910054293 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
29 Oct 93 p 2*

[Text] Ruling and opposition lawmakers, assailing the administration for failing to cope with national problems, yesterday called for a sweeping cabinet reshuffle to strengthen slackened discipline in public officialdom.

Through questions on state political affairs during a plenary session, they criticized the government for lacking a crisis management ability as seen in the recent series of major accidents.

Lawmakers of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] demanded special measures while the opposition Democratic Party [DP] legislators called for the immediate resignation of all the current cabinet members. The five-day interpellation session will last until Nov. 2.

The DP lawmakers, in particular, aroused a ferocious response from the DLP members when they called on DLP Chairman Kim Chong-pil to leave politics, taking issue with Kim's past political career as the leading conservative figure during the military regimes.

D¹ Reps. Yim Chae-chong and Chang Ki-uk urged leading members of the old guard who basked in favors during former President Chon Tu-hwan's government and those involved in the Dec. 12, 1979, military mutiny to step down voluntarily, sparking haggling between the rival parties.

DLP Rep. Yi Song-ho called on the government to come forward with steps to ensure the success of the reform move by having the reform trickle down to administrative bodies at low echelons.

He demanded measures to encourage the morale of public servants, saying the recent mishaps occurred due to the easy-going and loosened discipline in officialdom.

Rep. Kim Yong-il of the DLP denounced the government for its inability in deal with the disasters and dispute involving the right to dispense herbal medicine, and took issue with the repeatedly announced remedy steps to the system requiring the use of real names in all financial transactions.

He asked Prime Minister Hwang In-song whether he had any intention to recommend President Kim Yong-sam order a special measure in personnel administration to solve the deadlocked political situation, indicating a sweeping cabinet reshuffle.

DP's Chang Ki-uk said, "DLP's Kim Chong-pil should leave the Assembly, holding himself responsible for the past wrongdoings during the military governments," citing his role in connection with the May 16, 1961, military coup, the "humiliating" diplomatic agreement with Japan in 1965 and the heavy-handed rule during the so-called "Yusin (renewal)" era.

Rep. Yim Chae-chong of the DP said, "The general cabinet reshuffle is necessary so that President Kim can pursue the reform plan."

He asked whether the administration would introduce a special attorney to investigate former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u in connection with alleged irregularities during their stay in power.

Answering lawmakers' questions Premier Hwang said the government would have those now abroad to dodge the investigation in connection with the alleged "immoral" wealth accumulation return home.

They include former senior presidential secretary on diplomatic and security affairs Kim Chong-hwi, ex-finance minister Yi Yong-man and former Reps. Pak Tae-chun and Yi Won-cho.

"The government is doing efforts to persuade them to return by meeting their families and associates. The administration is thinking of nullifying their passports to get them returned in case they refuse," Hwang said.

Minister of National Unification Board Han Wan-sang said the government is employing peace-oriented tactics rather than sanctions in dealing with the North Korean nuclear problem.

"This is because excessive punitive step is feared to bring about mutual destruction," he said, adding. "We should not forget that the North possesses formidable arms which can impose incurable damage on entire Korean peninsula."

"The government judges there is need for a change in thinking in dealing with the unification issue to help the North feel at ease and lessen the tension on the peninsula," Han said.

Dissident Youth Organization Dissolved 28 Oct

SK2810115993 Seoul YONHAP in English 1136 GMT
28 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 28 (YONHAP)—The Alliance of Youths for Democratization Movement, often referred to as "Minchongnyon," was dissolved in a ceremony at the Christian Hall in downtown Seoul Thursday afternoon.

A Minchongnyon society will be set up in its place to promote fraternity among Minchongnyon members.

Minchongnyon was formed in September 1983 mostly among former student activists who fought the authoritarianism of the Pak Chong-hui regime.

The dissident organization played a leading role in the democratization movement of June 1987 that forced the authoritarian Chon Tu-hwan regime to begin to take the process of democratization.

The Minchongnyon society will launch various commemorative programs while succeeding to the historical achievements of Minchongnyon, society Chairman Choe Min-hwa said.

Paper Reports Groups' Disbanding

SK2910024293 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
29 Oct 93 p 29

[Text] The Youth Alliance for Democracy Movement [Minchongnyon], which was one of the organizations that led the democracy movement during the Fifth Republic, disbanded itself on 28 October, ending its 10-year activities.

The Minchongnyon officially disbanded itself with a meeting to mark the 10th anniversary of its founding at the Christian Building at 5-ka, Chongno-ku, Seoul on the afternoon that day. The participants in the meeting then formed the Minchongnyon Fraternity (president: Choe Min-hwa).

President Choe said: We have formed this fraternity to remember the spirit of the Minchongnyon which devoted itself to democratization under the gloomy period of the dictatorial regime and to maintain continuous ties among the members. The Minchongnyon's achievements in its contribution to the youth movement and national democracy movement will be inherited by the Korean Council of Youth Organizations and the National Democracy Movement Institute.

Present at the meeting were some 200 members including Mr. Kim Kun-tae and Democratic Party lawmakers Chang Yong-tal, Pak Kye-tong, and Yi Hae-chan.

The Minchongnyon was founded in September 1983 by the former student activists who struggled for democratization against the dictatorial regime in the 1960's and 1970's. The Minchongnyon led the democracy movement during the Fifth Republic.

Most Chonkyojo Teachers Apply for Reinstatement

SK2810143293 Seoul YONHAP in English 1001 GMT
28 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 28 (YONHAP)—Nearly all sacked unionized teachers have applied for reinstatement after bolting from the outlawed Teachers' Union or Chonkyojo as demanded by the government, a Chonkyojo source said on Thursday. He said that by Thursday, deadline for reinstatement application, 1,424 ex-teachers or 96.02 percent of the total Chonkyojo members eligible for reinstatement applied for return to school. Their application has put an end to the controversial Chonkyojo issue that had beset the educational circles for four years.

Only 59 Chonkyojo members did not apply. They include three former and present Chonkyojo chairmen, 15 who have found jobs elsewhere and 41 who chose to remain at Chonkyojo rather than to renounce it and go back to school. Ever since unionized teachers were expelled from school four years ago, the expellees and their sympathizers had demanded their reinstatement. But, the government was insisting their reinstatement could be considered only when they renounce their Chonkyojo membership or the outlawed union dissolves by itself.

Firms 'Reluctantly' Comply With Specialization

SK2910053393 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
29 Oct 93 p 8

[By Staff Reporter Kim Chang-yong]

[Text] Large business groups, ordered to select only three industrial fields for their core specialization Wednesday by this year-end, moved promptly yesterday to comply

with the seemingly formidable instruction given by the Kim Yong-sam administration.

Most conglomerates [chaebol] convened extraordinary meetings of their top leadership and presidents of affiliates and received debriefings from their chief officials in charge of planning and management who were formally notified of the decision at the Federation of Korean Industries [FKI] on the previous day.

They deliberated on the short- and long-term influence of the administration measure, perhaps the first policy directed at chaebol, and prospects of their own as well as their rival companies.

They accepted the measure, if largely reluctantly, and remained dubious about its potential results, painted rosy by the administration which has sometimes been hostile to conglomerates. Some critics in and outside the administration equate chaebol with dinosaurs for their greedy expansion of business realms through collusion with power.

"We agree in principle that we have to concentrate our capabilities on some of our fields but we think that the step will prevent us from adapting ourselves to swift changes in the international business climate instantly," said one executive who asked not to be identified.

The FKI, a lobbying group for large companies, made no formal comment apparently showing its displeasure with the sudden instruction which could tighten administration control on chaebol more easily.

The Hyundai Group, the most popular target of chaebol bashing by the Kim administration which declared it would cut off cozy relations with large concerns and no longer accept political donations from them, welcomed the measure.

A spokesman described the measure "timely" but some analysts regarded the positive response as more of an appeasement gesture toward Chongwadac [presidential

offices] a couple of days before its founder Chong Chu-yong, charged with violating election laws during his challenge of Kim for the presidency a year ago, is sentenced.

Hyundai has already poured a large portion of its new investments in the auto and electronics sectors, weighing whether the petrochemical or machinery fields should be its third specialized industry, officials said.

Machinery in which Hyundai Heavy Industries and Hyundai Precision Industry, key affiliates along with Hyundai Motor, are involved is more likely to be tapped as a core industry.

Exports to U.S. Down in 7 of 10 Categories

*SK2910114393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0825 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 29 (YONHAP)—Among Korea's ten major exports to the United States, three are rising and the others are declining, the Korea Foreign Trade Association said Friday. January-September exports of motor vehicles to the United States were off 0.5 percent from 1992 at 436 million U.S. dollars, or one-third of the 650 million dollars in the same months of 1990.

Automobile exports rose 51.2 percent in the first five months, but Hyundai Motor Co. closed its Canadian factory in June and caused a sharp reduction in the following months.

Exports of toys and dolls stopped at 80 million dollars, off nearly 70 percent from 259 million dollars in 1990. Shoe exports marked a drop of 24.9 percent to 783 million dollars, or 40 percent of 1990's 1.95 billion dollars. Fur and leather products sank 21.5 percent to 130 million dollars, down from 250 million dollars in 1990. Electric and electronic products, including semiconductors, rose 17.8 percent, general machinery rose 11 percent, and metal products rose 4.9 percent. Textile exports sank 1.6 percent, plastic products, 6.7 percent, and steel products, 10.9 percent.

Burma

Khin Nyunt Receives Kachin Peace Negotiators

*BK2710145793 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 27 Oct 93*

[Text] At 1600 this evening, Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, chairman of the Work Committee for the Development of Border Areas and National Races and secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], received retired Ambassador U Lawan; Reverend U Sabwegyun, general secretary of the Kachin Baptist Mission; and businessman U Khun Myat—Kachin peace negotiators who are acting as intermediaries in the peace negotiations with the Kachin Independence Army [KIA] armed organization—at the Defense Ministry's guest house on Inya Road. Also present at the meeting were Colonel Kyaw Win, deputy director of the Directorate of Defense Services Intelligence; Lieutenant Colonel Pe Nyein, director general of the SLORC office; and responsible personnel.

At the meeting, the members of the Kachin peace mission explained their experiences at the news conference they held on the peace negotiations at the UN headquarters. Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, SLORC secretary-1, then spoke about the progress of the peace negotiations and plans for the development of Kachin State. The meeting concluded at 1715.

Deputy Minister, Delegation Depart for PRC

*BK2710153393 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 27 Oct 93*

[Text] At the invitation of the PRC Ministry of Civil Affairs, and in order to develop further bilateral cooperation in social welfare activities, a Myanmar [Burmese] delegation led by U Win Naing, deputy minister of social welfare, relief, and resettlement, left Yangon [Rangoon] by air for the PRC this afternoon. The delegation includes U Htein Win, director of the Fire Services Department; U Maung Ti, deputy director of the Relief and Resettlement Department; U Myat Shwe, deputy director of the Social Welfare Department; and U Khin Maung Than, staff officer of the Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement Ministry.

Government To Release Detained Thai Fishermen

*BK2810151393 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 28 Oct 93*

[Text] The Government of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], in view of the friendly Myanmar-Thai relations and after lenient consideration from a humanitarian viewpoint, has conditionally suspended the sentences of 59 Thai fishermen. There are foreign fishermen, including Thais, who have violated Myanmar's fisheries laws and legal action has been taken against them.

During his visit to Myanmar in September 1993 to attend the first Myanmar-Thai Joint Commission

meeting, Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri paid courtesy calls on state leaders. During his meetings he raised the matter of the Thai fishermen detained under Myanmar law, and requested lenient reconsideration from a humanitarian viewpoint based on the existing good bilateral relations.

The Government of the Union of Myanmar, after careful consideration of friendly Myanmar-Thai relations, thus decided to suspend conditionally the sentences of 59 Thai fishermen from Thai-Myanmar joint ventures among the Thai fishermen detained and sentenced under Myanmar law. Plans are being made with the Royal Thai Embassy for the 59 Thai fishermen to return to Thailand. It has been learned that the Thai fishermen were arrested in June and July 1993 for violating Myanmar fisheries laws.

Radio Reports 28 'Insurgents' Surrender 2-13 Sep

*BK2710153793 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 27 Oct 93*

[Text] Members of terrorist insurgent organizations who have realized their wrongdoings and accepted the work being undertaken and the genuine goodwill of the State Law and Order Restoration Council have been abandoning their armed struggle and surrendering with their arms and ammunition continuously at various military camps. From 2 to 13 September, 28 terrorist insurgents returned to the legal fold. It has been learned that the surrendering terrorist insurgents were warmly welcomed by the responsible personnel at the various camps.

27 Surrender 14-23 Sep

*BK2810151993 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 28 Oct 93*

[Text] Members of terrorist insurgent organizations who have realized their wrongdoings and accepted the work being undertaken and the genuine goodwill of the State Law and Order Restoration Council have been abandoning their armed struggle and surrendering with their arms and ammunition continuously at various military camps. Between 14 and 23 September, 27 terrorist insurgents returned to the legal fold. It has been learned that the surrendering terrorist insurgents were warmly welcomed by the responsible personnel at the various camps.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir 'Satisfied' With Commonwealth Meeting

*BK2810120093 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRaits TIMES
in English 27 Oct 93 p 1*

[Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, Tues.—Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said he was satisfied with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)

because Malaysia managed to include its stand on Bosnia in the communique. The prime minister said that in general, the meeting went smoothly. "Overall I am quite satisfied," Dr. Mahathir said.

He said Malaysia only faced some opposition on the country's stand on Bosnia, but managed to include the item in the communique issued at the end of the meeting. He added that apart from several Asian countries, Malaysia noticed there was lack of sympathy for the Bosnian problem.

Speaking to reporters at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang on his return from Cyprus after attending the CHOGM, Dr. Mahathir said: "I do not understand why... perhaps because the former Yugoslavia had at one time close relations with developing nations in their fight for independence."

Yugoslavia's participation in the Non-Aligned Movement in Jakarta could also be another factor, he said. He added that Malaysia's proposal on technology management was also accepted. "We took an active part in the discussions," he said.

On his trip to Malta and Cyprus, Dr. Mahathir hoped that Malaysia could resume its exports of Proton cars to Malta after it was stopped for some time. [passage omitted]

Minister Says Bosnia Conflict Not Complex Issue

*BK2810103693 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0955 GMT 28 Oct 93*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Oct 28 (OANA/BERNAMA)— Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi Thursday rejected the claim by leaders in Europe and the United States that that the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina is a complex issue which is difficult to be resolved. Saying such as a claim was without basis and a ploy, he said the actual situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina was not as that projected by the leaders of developed countries.

To me, what is happening there is firstly violation of human rights and secondly an encroachment into the sovereignty and territorial integrity of an independent country, he said when tabling a motion on Bosnia-Herzegovina in the Dewan Rakyat (Lower House of Parliament).

The motion, among other things, condemned all forms of encroachment and human rights violations including genocide and ethnic cleansing. The motion also urged the UN Security Council to take firm action to implement its resolutions on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Abdullah said leaders in Europe and the United States wanted the international community to believe that what was happening in Bosnia-Herzegovina was something very complex involving differences in race, religion, culture and a fanatical ideology and nationalism. If we look for a moment at the problem of apartheid in South

Africa we will recall the same story... Hence I reject as a mere ploy and claim that the problem in Bosnia-Herzegovina is a complex issue, he said. Supporters of the apartheid policy in South Africa had also claimed that the situation in that country was complex and difficult to be resolved. However today the problem of apartheid could be resolved and was not that complex as claimed earlier, he said.

The situation is more or less the same in Bosnia-Herzegovina he said.

Malaysia very much regretted the failure of the West and the UN Security Council to uphold the principle of territorial integrity and human rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Their failure to give protection and help to Bosnia-Herzegovina in the face of encroachment and human rights violations by the Serbs was very shameful, he said.

If Vietnamese encroachment into Cambodia and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait were strongly condemned by the West and the UN Security Council, why the same action was not taken against the Serbs over their encroachment into Bosnia, he asked. Questioning the double standards of the West in the Bosnian conflict, he said the move by certain countries of the West to prevent the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina, had lowered the integrity and moral of these countries which claimed to be champions of human rights and democracy.

Malaysia wanted the embargo to be lifted and urged the permanent members of the UN Security Council especially Britain and France not to stand in the way of lifting the embargo.

Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Cuban Counterpart

*BK2510130193 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0654 GMT 25 Oct 93*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Oct 25 (OANA-BERNAMA)— Cuba is keen to have Malaysian business partners to promote joint venture in the restructuring of the country's economy, Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said Monday. Cuba also wanted to have an exchange program [words indistinct] information and experts in the agricultural, sports and technological fields.

Speaking to reporters after his Cuban counterpart Mario Rodrigues called on him, he said the latter also informed him of Cuba's interest in learning more about the cocoa and oil palm industry. Rodrigues indicated that his country could play a role by becoming a processing centre for palm oil for the Latin American market, he added.

We welcome the interest shown by Cuba and it is up to them to give confidence to the private sector to invest in

that country, he said. He told Rodrigues that Cuba should explain its investment regulations to attract Malaysian investors.

Government Projects 11 Percent 1993 Growth

BK2510130993 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0911 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Oct 25 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Malaysian gross national product (GNP) for this year is projected to total RM [Ringgit Malaysia] 157.576 billion (about US\$63 billion) an increase of RM17.349 billion (about US\$6.9 billion) or 11.1 per cent compared to that for last year, according to the department of statistics.

In a report released Monday, it projected the growth of the gross domestic product (GDP) to be 7.6 per cent this year, 0.4 per cent lower than last year's. The GDP for this year was projected to total RM100.288 million, (about US\$40.112 billion) up by seven per cent from last year's RM93.167 billion (about US\$37.2 billion), it said. The report estimated this year's per capita GNP to be RM8,281 (US\$3,312) compared to last year's RM7,541 (US\$3,016).

Singapore

51 Percent Stake in Slovenian Company Acquired

BK2810134493 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 28 Oct 93 p 11

[By Joseph Rajendran]

[Text] Singapore—Local PC systems maker IPC Corp has paid U.S.\$83,992 (\$1.4 million) in cash for a 51 percent stake in its Slovenian distributor, 7-L d.o.o. Darko Szabo will hold the remaining 49 percent stake in the company, which will now be renamed IPC Corp d.o.o.

IPC has been on the aggressive acquisition spree since its listing earlier this year. It took a 50 percent stake in its French distributor in July, set up a new joint venture in China last month and bought out its UK distributor recently. Shortly before the listing in May, IPC acquired Texas-based Austin Computer Systems for its U.S. expansion.

A statement from the company yesterday said it was buying the stake to "exercise greater influence over the Slovenian firm's management, business policy and marketing strategies".

It added that the acquisition will also allow IPC to expand further in Slovenia, which is a former Yugoslav republic. There are plans to set up two IPC centers in the country, one each in Maribor and Ljubljana. These centers will sell only the IPC range of PCs, point-of-sales terminals, notebook computers and multimedia products.

The statement added that the day-to-day operations will still be in the hands of Mr Szabo, who is expected to

increase staff strength to 13 from the present seven. The acquisition is also in line with IPC's aim of consolidating its foothold in Europe by setting up more subsidiaries in all major markets in the continent. It now has subsidiaries in Germany, Austria, Holland, UK and the Czech Republic.

The acquisition is not expected to have any significant effect on group net tangible assets and earnings for the year to Dec 1993.

For the half-year to June 30, IPC's group turnover rose 132 percent to S\$237.4 million, while net earnings jumped 52 percent to S\$22.04 million.

Cambodia

Prince Ranariddh Presents New Cabinet Lineup

BK2910065393 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Address by Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh presenting his new cabinet to the National Assembly at the 29 October session in Phnom Penh—recorded]

[Text] In reference to Articles 99 and 100, Chapter 9, of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia; by virtue of Royal Decree from His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk, dated 24 September 1999 [year as heard], I am honored to present to the National Assembly and all beloved compatriots the makeup of the government and the political platform of the Royal Government of Cambodia to secure the confidence of the eminent members of the National Assembly, who are the glorious and noble representatives of the Cambodian citizens, the genuine masters of our venerated Cambodia.

I take this opportunity to inform you that the Royal Government is made up of state ministers, ministers, state secretaries, and under state secretaries. In accordance with Article 99 on the government of our Constitution, the cabinet members of the Royal Government are as follows:

First Prime Minister: Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh;

Second Prime Minister: His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen;

Deputy Prime Ministers: Prince Norodom Sirivut; H.E. Sar Kheng;

State Ministers: H.E. Ing Kiet; H.E. Keat Chhon, in charge of rehabilitation and development; H.E. Ung Phan, in charge of inspection; H.E. Van Molivan, in charge of cultural affairs, fine arts, landscaping, and urbanization; H.E. Chem Snguon; and H.E. Sam Rangsi;

The Council of Ministers' Office: H.E. Sok An, minister; H.E. Veng Sereivut, minister; H.E. Sum Manit, state secretary; H.E. Neou Kanon, state secretary;

State Secretariats attached to the Council of Ministers:
State Secretariat for the Environment: H.E. Mok Maret, state secretary;

State Secretariat for Rural Development: H.E. Hong Sun-huot, state secretary;

State Secretariat for Relations with Parliament: H.E. Say Bori, state secretary;

State Secretariat for Women's Affairs: H.E. Keat Sokun, state secretary;

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation: Prince Norodom Sirivut, minister; H.E. Uch Kim-an, state secretary;

Ministry of National Defense: H.E. Tie Banh, minister; H.E. Tie Chamrat, minister; H.E. Chay Sangyun, state secretary, absent here; H.E. Ek Sereivoat, state secretary;

Ministry of the Interior: H.E. Sar Kheng, minister; H.E. Yu Hokkri, minister; H.E. Im Chhunlim, state secretary; H.E. Khan Savoeun, state secretary;

Ministry of Economy and Finance: H.E. Sam Rangsi, minister; H.E. Cham Prasit, state secretary;

Ministry of Press: H.E. Ieng Muli, minister; H.E. Khiem Khanarit, state secretary;

Ministry of Public Works and Transport: H.E. Ing Kiet, minister;

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries: H.E. Kong Sam-ol, minister; H.E. Tau Senghuo, state secretary;

Ministry of Justice: H.E. Chem Snguon, minister; H.E. Heng Vong-bunchhat, state secretary;

Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs, and Sports: H.E. Ing Huot, minister; H.E. Mom Chimhuy, state secretary;

Ministry of Trade: H.E. Va Huot, minister;

Ministry of Industry, Minerals, and Energy: H.E. Pu Sothirak, minister—he is on a mission;

Ministry of Planning: H.E. Chea Chanto, minister;

Ministry of Public Health: H.E. Chhea Thang, minister;

Ministry of Tourism: H.E. Veng Sereivut, minister;

Ministry of Religious Affairs: H.E. Hean Vannaroat, state secretary;

Ministry of Post and Telecommunications: H.E. So Khun, state secretary;

Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts: H.E. Nut Narang, state secretary;

Ministry of Social Welfare, Labor, and Veteran Affairs: H.E. Suy Sem, state secretary;

H.E. Thao Pengleat and Madame Chulong Someara shall retain their posts as governor general and deputy governor general of the National Bank of Cambodia.

Sihanouk Warns of 'Grave' National Problems

*BK2910092093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0837 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[Text] Phnom Penh, Oct 29 (AFP)—King Norodom Sihanouk, hinting of his death, warned Friday of "large and grave national problems" facing Cambodia. The warning, contained in an address to the nation for his 71st birthday on Sunday and printed in the English-language CAMBODIA DAILY, said the Khmer Rouge guerrilla movement, border disputes and poverty remained the country's most serious obstacles.

"The problem of the Khmer Rouge and their autonomous zones which have resulted in a 'de facto' partition of our country" remains in force, the king wrote. The new royal Cambodian government has been trying to play down the Khmer Rouge threat in order to woo investors, comparing the guerrillas to Britain's Irish Republican Army.

The king also cited "the problem of our territorial integrity, the land and maritime borders...which, alas, are not respected by certain neighboring countries," meaning Vietnam and Thailand.

Finally, "rehabilitating the 'little people' classified as among the poorest in the world" is a major problem faced by Cambodia's economic developers, he said.

King Sihanouk thanked the people for restoring him to the throne on September 24 and for their continued support on his birthday.

"For the rest of my life and even after life, I shall never forget all your good deeds and just acts toward my rehabilitation," he said.

Message Outlines Measures To Counter Khmer Rouge

*BK2710133793 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT
27 Oct 93*

[Message to ministers, city and provincial governors, the civil aviation director, and the directors of the ports of Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville from First Prime Minister Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and Second Prime Minister Hun Sen; dated 18 October]

[Text] In reference to Circular No. 10 of the cochairmen of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia [PNGC], dated 10 August 1993, dealing with illegal army and police recruitment and measures against Khmer Rouge activities, and Decision No. 23 of the PNGC cochairmen, dated 27 August 1993, dealing with the creation of the Joint Commission for Maintaining Security in Provinces and Cities:

With the objective of opposing the party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], which continues to launch offensive

activities to expand its territory, cut off communications lines, destroy bridges, and rob and kill people on a daily basis:

Our Cambodian national armed forces have conducted successful counter activities, especially in Kompong Thom, Siem Reap, Battambang, and Banteay Meanchey Provinces. Such military successes notwithstanding, we will remain alert to the tactics of the PDK—or Khmer Rouge—because although politically they have asked for negotiations, they have actually taken advantage of this to commit all types of sabotage and terrorist acts in the cities and provinces.

Moreover, the Khmer Rouge have continued to launch surprise attacks against the positions of our national armed forces. At the same time, we have also noticed that a number of criminals, especially groups of armed robbers, have been intensifying their acts of banditry, homicide, and other offenses. The activities of the PDK—or Khmer Rouge—and these groups of armed robbers have created social instability and insecurity and spread fear and anxiety among our citizens as well as foreigners, such as investors and tourists.

In light of this, the addressees are asked to effectively execute Circular No. 10 of the PNGC cochairmen, dated 10 August 1993, dealing with illegal army and police recruitment and measures against Khmer Rouge activities. At the same time, they are urged to pay attention to implementing the following measures immediately:

1. To maintain vigorous security at important places, such as the offices of various ministries; the residences of important leaders; sources of electric energy; sources of hydropower; arms and ammunition depots; materiel and food supply storage centers; historic sites; tourist centers; airports; ports; wharves and ferries; all ceremonies, gatherings, meetings, and national day celebrations, especially national day celebrations; towns; movie theaters; auditoriums; dance halls; markets; and so on.

2. To set up, consolidate, and expand defense lines around cities, provincial seats, and important townships to prevent the enemy from shelling them or infiltrating them for clandestine activities.

3. To step up vigorous inspections and searches in suburban and downtown areas to prevent enemy infiltrations and the clandestine introductions of arms and explosives, and intensify thorough control of arms and explosives in the localities under their responsibility.

4. To send out patrols and set up sentries to guard and intervene in important places that might become the target of enemy attacks.

5. To guard and defend communications lines thoroughly, such as national routes, bridges, railroads, the Mekong River, the Tonle Sap River, and the Basak River. This is to prevent enemy passage; ensure the citizens' security in travel and transport; and prevent criminals from taking the opportunity to perpetrate

negative deeds on highways, such as threatening, intimidating, robbing, or blackmailing travelers of their cash or kind.

6. To intensify the activities of the self-defense forces, formerly known as militia forces, as required by the situation.

In order to execute the above-mentioned security measures efficiently, each province and city will set up a city or provincial commission, headed by the city or provincial governor, with either the commander of the local operational zone or the local army region as cochairman, and with the chairmen of important local services and autonomous institutions, such as ports and airports, as members.

In the process of discharging its duty, the commission will maintain good relations with the competent forces.

The makeup and detailed tasks of the commissions will be worked out by its cochairmen, who will report to the Joint Commission for Maintaining Security in Provinces and Cities at the Council of Ministers.

The Joint Commission for Maintaining Security in Provinces and Cities, created by virtue of the above-mentioned decision, will conduct inspections and offer advice on the spot in accordance with a schedule to be determined by the commission's chairman. The General Staff of the national armed forces and the Ministry of Interior and National Security will act as the staff in helping the government and the Joint Commission for Maintaining Security in Provinces and Cities organize the implementation of this message.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 18 October 1993

[Signed] First Prime Minister Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh; His Excellency Hun Sen, second prime minister

PRC To Provide Fabric for Military Uniforms

BK2810135393 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] A ceremony was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on the afternoon of 27 October to sign a cooperation agreement with the PRC on assistance to the Khmer Royal Armed Forces [KRAF].

Attending the ceremony for the KRAF were His Excellency General Tie Chamrat, co-deputy defense minister; Gen. Kruoch Yoeum, principal secretary of the Defense Ministry; and a number of other Defense Ministry generals and personalities. Madame Xia Yue'e, PRC ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, and a number of other embassy officials attended for the Chinese Embassy. His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sirivut, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, also graced the ceremony with his presence.

Under the agreement, China will provide the KRAF with 786,000 meters of green-colored fabric along with the cotton thread, buttons, elastic bands, and needles needed to make dresses and army uniforms. This is in response to requests by the Defense Ministry and the KRAF.

H.E. Gen. Tie Chamrat deeply thanked the PRC for its assistance to the KRAF, which is experiencing an acute shortage of army uniforms. The PRC ambassador noted that such aid was part of the time-honored tradition of friendship between China and Cambodia. She said that this tradition of cooperation will continue forever.

Indonesia

Official on Countering U.S. Labor Allegations

BK2810050893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0503 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Jakarta, Oct 28 (AFP)—An Indonesian delegation will visit Washington next week to meet U.S. trade officials to counter American allegations of poor labour conditions in the populous Asian nation, it was stated here Thursday.

"Indonesia will inform them that we have been doing a lot of things to improve labour conditions in past years, and especially in 1993," Payaman Simanjuntak of the manpower ministry, told AFP. A USTR [U.S. Trade Representative] team made a fact-finding visit to Indonesia in September.

Simanjuntak, the ministry's director-general of industrial relations and labour standards, said the hearing with the U.S. Trade Representative office (USTR) would be in Washington on November 3. Indonesia's delegation would comprise officials from the manpower and trade ministry and its U.S. ambassador.

Washington has criticised Indonesia over some of its labour laws and has threatened to remove its trade privileges in America unless it improves labour conditions by mid-February.

The human rights group Asia Watch and the International Labour Rights Education and Research Fund, which lodged the labour complaints against Indonesia's with the USTR, might be present at the Washington meeting, said Simanjuntak.

Simanjuntak has already announced that Indonesia plans to modify ministerial decrees which critics say can be used to justify military intervention in labour disputes.

Further on Australian Prime Minister's Visit

Keating Reiterates Rights Stance

BK2710075993 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0630 GMT 27 Oct 93

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] Indonesia's President Suharto and Australia's Prime Minister Paul Keating are having private talks in Jakarta with both sides claiming relations between the two countries have never been better. On arriving in the Indonesian capital last night, Mr. Keating reiterated his view that Australia should adopt a balanced approach to Indonesia's human rights record.

The main focus of the prime minister's brief visit is the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation initiative or APEC. As Michael Moore reports from Jakarta, there are still differences between the two countries over just how fast APEC should be developed:

[Begin recording] [Moore] Paul Keating has no shortage of friends in Jakarta. His reported remarks in Washington urging the United States to ease its strident criticisms of Indonesia over human rights have led Foreign Minister Ali Alatas to applaud what he described as the Australian leader's moral fiber. Shortly after arriving in Jakarta for his second visit in just 18 months, Mr. Keating reiterated the views that have earned him brickbats from certain quarters back home.

[Keating] One deals with a country on the totality of its relationship, and we see the relationship with Indonesia in the broad, that is a large country of 180 million people, very geographically close to Australia, developing now at quite a pace, and reaching out to the world, and it also has its particular problems that developing countries do. And this has been expressed in a number of ways, in part, of course, the problems in Timor a few years ago. But I think the important thing is to see the relationship in the totality. We have made our position clear about these human rights issues, but we are also not a sort of mono-dimensional government. We are looking at Indonesia in the broad.

[Moore] But the main purpose of Mr. Keating's visit to Jakarta is to bolster Indonesian support for the Asia-Pacific economic cooperation process. In his talks with President Suharto today, the Indonesian leader is expected to confirm that he will be attending the APEC leaders meeting in the United States next month. But as for Mr. Keating's idea to change the meaning of APEC to Asia Pacific Economic Community, the response in Jakarta and in a number of other Association of Southeast Asian or ASEAN capitals has been lukewarm. Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas:

[Alatas] I don't believe it is the view of Prime Minister Keating that we are close to an Asia Pacific Economic Community and neither do we believe that we are close to that. But in general terms, we both, I think, share the view that it is an important grouping, but I think you are also aware that we in ASEAN see it as a grouping that should not too quickly institutionalize. Rather, let the programs of cooperation develop, let us have concrete results, and institutionalization will come by itself.

We also share the view that liberalization is the way forward. But here again, as developing countries, the ASEAN view is that such liberalization should be at a

pace that is comfortable, that is in accordance with the capacities and the interests of developing countries. So, these are nuance differences, I think, but in general we share the rather upbeat view of APEC as the forum for consultation for cooperation among the Asia-Pacific countries.

[Moore] While Mr. Keating acknowledges that Indonesia may be adopting a softly, softly approach toward APEC he says that doesn't mean that it wants to slow down the Australian free trade initiative. [end recording]

Meets Foreign Minister Alatas

BK2710123193 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Indonesia and Australia share identical views on ways to develop the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] forum on the basis of the interests of all its members, particularly developing nations. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said this to reporters after holding talks this afternoon with Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating at the State Guest House in Jakarta.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said the Asia-Pacific nations can turn APEC into a multilateral body beneficial to all its members. According to Alatas, the two nations agree that multilateral economic cooperation among the APEC nations will be very beneficial in view of the present global changes and rapid economic growth. APEC will hold a summit of heads of government in Seattle next month. The foreign minister is sure that an APEC ministerial meeting will be held in Jakarta next year.

Agreement Reached on APEC Talks

BK2810085093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0630 GMT 28 Oct 93

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] Indonesia and Australia are presenting a united front in the lead-up to next month's leaders' conference of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation group, APEC, in Seattle. That is despite Jakarta's fears that a free trade group might become too institutionalized.

Australia's prime minister, Paul Keating, attempted to smooth those fears in talks with Indonesia's President Suharto and senior Indonesian ministers. At the same time, Mr. Keating has (?foreshadowed) that one of APEC's key members, the United States, will be looking for progress from Indonesia on the human rights front. Michael Moore reports from Jakarta:

[Begin recording] [Moore] Indonesian and Australian officials are at pains to point out that their respective positions on APEC are very similar, if not identical, and certainly Mr. Keating came away from his meeting with President Suharto confident that the two leaders would go to the APEC summit next month ready to give the free trade group some real substance. However, Jakarta is

still concerned to ensure that APEC does not trample on the ground of Southeast Asia's own economic forums, such as ASEAN, and it is wary as well about APEC becoming too institutionalized.

As for Mr. Keating's push to have the group become known as the Asia Pacific Economic Community, the Indonesian view still seems to be that it is an idea whose time has not yet come.

Although human rights was raised only briefly during Mr. Keating's talks with President Suharto, it was raised in the context of APEC. Mr. Keating made the point that the United States, which has been adopting a tough line on Indonesia over human rights of late, had chosen not to use economic and political clout to solve its trade problems on its own, but instead had opted for the more cooperative multilateral approach.

Mr. Keating said the U.S. was doing something for the common good and would be expecting something in return. Indonesian foreign minister, Ali Alatas, said he was unsure whether or not U.S. expectations on the human rights front will present problems at the forthcoming APEC leaders' meeting in Seattle.

[Alatas] It depends on how it is being put. If it is being put as a thing that is important, just as important as development, just as important as all other things, there is no problem. But if it is put in a conditionality linkage, then you know our view. I think that view is made very clear—what we cannot accept and will not accept is to reduce that relationship, that broad relationship between democracy, development, human rights, and so on—to reduce it into a conditionality relationship.

[Moore] But as far as Australia and Indonesia are concerned, officials are working hard to ensure the human rights issue does not impair their relations. Mr. Keating has made special mention of defense links between the two countries, saying he was pleased that cooperation in this areas has been stepped up over the past 18 months. Indonesia and Australia are now engaging in more joint exercises and the prime minister said he expected that increased cooperation to spill over into the intelligence area as well. It is certainly a far cry from 1986 when defense ties were cut altogether because of an unflattering article on President Suharto's family published in the SYDNEY MORNING HERALD. [end recording]

Keating Ends Three-Day Visit

BK2810134093 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1245 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Jakarta, Oct 28 (OANA/ANTARA)—Prime Minister Paul Keating early Thursday left Jakarta for Australia, concluding his three-day visit in Indonesia. Before boarding, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas held a brief farewell ceremony for the Australian prime minister, who was accompanied by Mrs Anita Keating. As it was only a working visit, Keating did not bid farewell to President Suharto.

According to Minister/State Secretary Murdiono, the two leaders have focussed their discussion on Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) matters. Suharto and Keating met almost two hours at Merdeka Palace on Wednesday.

The two countries agreed to bring the APEC as a proper forum for enhancing cooperation among its member countries which consist of six ASEAN states, Australia, New Zealand, China, Hong Kong, United States, Canada, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan in order to increase their economic growth.

Government Criticizes Israeli Court Resolution

BK2910024793 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] The Indonesian Government has criticized a resolution adopted by the Israeli Supreme Court which claims that Al-Azhar mosque and Dome of the Rock belong to that country. A press release issued by the Foreign Affairs Department said the Israeli Supreme Court's resolution may cause new upheavals in the Middle East and runs counter to the Israeli Government leaders' wish to create peace.

The Indonesian Government supports the Jordanian Government's stand which also opposes the Israeli Supreme Court's resolution because such a resolution amounts to a violation of Muslim's and Arab people's lawful rights for access to historical and holy sites. In its 23 September resolution, the Israeli Supreme Court claimed that Al-Azhar mosque and the Dome of the Rock are part of that country's territory and subject to Israeli law, which include restoration, archaeological work, and access to the two sites.

Border Agreement Reached With Philippines

BK2710052993 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] At the 15th meeting of the General Border Commission in Ujungpandang, South Sulawesi, Indonesia and the Philippines have agreed to set up three immigration checkpoints to monitor the movements of peoples living along the common border of the two countries.

Major General Tamliha Ali, Indonesia's chairman of the General Border Commission, said that the three immigration check points for the Filipinos intending to travel in and out of Indonesia will be situated at Batu Gading, Tibanban, and Bugau. The check points for Indonesians wishing to travel to the Philippines will be located at Marore, Miangas, and Tarakan. An agreement on co-ordinated patrols along the common border was also reached at the meeting.

Laos

SRV President To Pay Official Visit 'Soon'

BK2910013493 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Press release issued by Presidential Office dated 29 October]

[Text] In response to an invitation of Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], Comrade Le Duc Anh, president of the SRV, will pay an official friendship visit to the LPDR soon.

Foreign Minister Greets Cambodian Counterpart

BK2910040193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Greetings message from Somsavat Lengsavat, minister of foreign affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to Samdech Norodom Sirivut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on 26 October]

[Text] I am delighted to be informed that you, Samdech, have been appointed deputy prime minister and concurrently minister of foreign affairs of the Kingdom of Cambodia. I would like to express sincere congratulations to you, Samdech, on this occasion.

I am convinced that the good, traditional relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Cambodia, as well as between the Foreign Affairs Ministries, of our two countries will be further expanded.

I wish you, Samdech, good health and success in performing your honorable tasks.

Philippines

Government Establishes Ties With South Africa

BK2810120893 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0930 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The Philippines has established diplomatic ties with South Africa. It is the last country to establish diplomatic ties with South Africa after the latter abandoned apartheid.

This move is part of the government's plan to broaden its economic relations with the countries in Europe and South Africa. This policy is important, according to Trade Secretary Rizalino Navarro during his speech at the Makati Rotary West.

[Begin Navarro recording in English] I think there's just a need to expand our horizon, and look again at the Rotary Club in Europe, and establish relations with them. As one of the world's largest economic [word

indistinct] market, a single Europe will have a significant impact on the Philippine economy, and the Philippine relations in the coming years will be critical to the achievement of our growth target. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Unidentified Gunmen Kill Taiwanese Fugitive

BK2510114393 Quezon City Radyo Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Excerpt] A Taiwanese fugitive and alleged leader of an international kidnap for ransom and human smuggling syndicate was shot dead by two of the four fatigued-clad suspects on Thursday [21 October] in a hideout in a remote barangay [village] in San Juan, Batangas. Wang Ching-chai—alias Antonio Chua, Rizarino Chua, and Rizalino Haw—47, of Taitung, Taipei, and with given addresses at Ternate, Cavite, Talisay, Batangas, and in Quezon City, sustained six M-16 armalite bullet wounds in the head and chest. He died at the sala [room] of his supposed new hideout in Barangay De Bato, San Juan town, said Batangas PNP [Philippine National Police] intelligence officer Chief Inspector Wilson Ambil. The suspects, all in fatigue uniform, wore CAT [expansion unknown] caps, escaped for the national highway where they boarded a waiting vehicle, police said. [sentence as heard] Police added the armed men arrived at 7:00 PM local time, while Chai was already asleep with his still unidentified live-in lover. The suspects pounded on the front door of Chai's hideout, prompting the Taiwanese to get out from his bed. He was, however, greeted with armalite bullets.

Only yesterday morning, Batangas PNP investigation officer Chief Inspector Camilo Sabo had confirmed that the slain man was Chai, a jail escapee long wanted by the government law enforcement agencies, including the National Bureau of Investigation and the Manila Police. Sabo said. Police believe that Chai, also reportedly a high-ranking officer of the 14K and Bamboo Drug syndicate, was liquidated due to a double cross. They did not elaborate. [passage omitted]

Official Views Jakarta Talks With Rebels

BK2910065893 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Philippine Government chief negotiator Ambassador Manuel Yan yesterday said the ongoing peace talks here in Jakarta with the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] may go beyond merely discussing details of implementation of the Tripoli Accord.

The talks, now in their second day, at the Hotel Indonesia are in the process of hammering out the agenda with the assistance of the panel's joint secretariat. The 10-man secretariat includes four representatives each from the government and the MNLF and one each from the Indonesian Foreign Ministry and the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC].

Yan's panel is engaged in the negotiation with Nur Misuari, who has a 22-man MNLF panel at the Hotel Indonesia since 26 October. Yan stressed the government's position when he clarified the phrase in the provision of the Cipanas statement of understanding during the panel's agenda settling session Tuesday night. Yan explained that the phrase, quote, modalities for the full implementation of the Tripoli Accord as provided in section 14 of the Cipanas joint statement shall be construed as the means by which the Tripoli Agreement shall be fully implemented, unquote.

The Cipanas joint memorandum of understanding was drawn up during the exploratory meeting last April between the government and MNLF representatives in Cipanas, West Java, Indonesia. The Tripoli Agreement, on the other hand, was forged under the then President Marcos, with Misuari in Tripoli 23 December 1976 and brokered by Libyan strongman Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi. Yan earlier told PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY in Manila that while the meat of the discussions in the talks would be based on the Tripoli Agreement the panels may discuss other matters which will directly benefit the people of southern Philippines. He said that some of the Tripoli Accord provisions which have already been overtaken by events may not be taken up at all. Yan said the government and the MNLF panels have reaffirmed the Tripoli Agreement as the framework for the ongoing discussions as the agenda-setting session resumed yesterday.

Indonesia, as host and facilitator of the peace talks during the sessions, presided over the sessions. The task was entrusted to Director (N. Hassan Wirahuda) and Director (Jamaris Sulaeman) of the Indonesian Foreign Ministry. Indonesia's Foreign Affairs Department Political Affairs Director S. Wiryono meanwhile said the negotiations have been going on smoothly.

Christians Oppose Full Muslim Autonomy

BK2910021493 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 27 Oct 93 p 3

[By Charlie M. Covarrubias]

[Text] Zamboanga City—Majority of residents here oppose the expansion of the present Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) saying the results of the 1989 plebiscite should be respected.

The Ramos government had agreed during exploratory talks with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) last April the peace talks will focus on salient provisions of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement that could be implemented realistically. The Tripoli accord stipulates that Muslim self-governance will include 13 provinces and nine cities in southern Philippines, including Palawan.

Zamboanga City Representative Maria Clara Lobregat has expressed strong objection to the proposed expansion of the ARMM and said only four provinces opted to join it in the 1989 plebiscite. At present, ARMM is

composed only of the provinces of Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, and Maguindanao.

The government-MNLF peace talks enter their substantive phase today at the Hotel Indonesia in Jakarta following its formal opening Monday afternoon.

Lobregat articulated the reaction of Zamboanga residents to the ARMM expansion proposal in a letter she dispatched to Ambassador Yan [head, government negotiating panel] yesterday.

"As the representative of Zamboanga City in Congress, I would like to bring to your attention our people's vehement objection to the proposed ARMM expansion which potentially includes Zamboanga City, on the basis of the Tripoli Agreement," Lobregat wrote.

Lobregat said the ARMM issue had already been fully addressed and resolved by the ratification of the 1987 Constitution and RA [Republic Act] 6734, the ARMM organic law which already saw full implementation in the 19 November 1989 plebiscite.

Veteran media man Charlie Sebastian said: "We have already spoken in the 1989 plebiscite that we don't want to have anything to do with the MNLF and its proposed autonomous region. Why push us against the wall?" A tricycle driver identified only as Francisco expressed fears that expanding the ARMM territory might result in a bloody armed struggle between Christians and Muslims in Mindanao.

"We do not want that to happen again," he said. Many others agreed with him.

Tony Soriano said: "We might have another Lebanon here."

A Protestant pastor, Rev. Doming Calisang observed: "I think it is unjust. There should be more representatives from the Christian community in the 15-man government panel so that we could really manifest our sentiments on the MNLF issue."

Another lawyer said: "If the government agrees to the addition of all other provinces as mandated in the Tripoli accord, then we shall all be Muslims as the ARMM name implies, which we are not."

Visayas Communists Repudiate Founding Leader

BK2910021293 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 27 Oct 93 p 5

[Text] Cebu City—The rift within the ranks of the underground left has spread to Central Visayas with the formation of an autonomous regional committee opposing the leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

The split was confirmed in separate press statement issued by Nicolas Rojo and Rene Villafuerte, spokesman and alternate spokesman, respectively, of the regional

committee in Central Visayas under the Visayas Commission (VISCOM) faction of the CPP.

Villafuerte told a local daily here the new CPP regional committee, formed first week of September this year, has officially declared its autonomy last 14 October from the CPP national leadership led by Armando Liwanag, nom de guerre of exiled leader Jose Ma. Sison.

The move completed the realignment of the underground forces in the Visayas following similar decisions by the committee in Negros Island last 14 October and the formation of the so-called Democratic Bloc in Panay Island.

The other areas in the country where some CPP elements also declared autonomy were the regional committees in Manila-Rizal and Central Mindanao and the White Area Committee In the western part of Zamboanga.

The pro-Sison CPP called the "Reaffirmists" for their adherence to the document "Reaffirm Our Basic Principles" written by Liwanag retain control of the regional committee of the CPP in Samar and Leyte Islands.

It also maintains its hold over the old regional committees in Central Visayas and Panay Islands.

With the recent development Central Visayas, which, under the CPP structure is only composed of the provinces of Cebu and Bohol has now two factions vying for control of the area.

Villafuerte claimed that they have as of the moment a "rough political party" in terms of strength as compared to the "Reaffirmists." He admitted that the main formations of the New People's Army (NPA) in the region from the guerrilla units in the countryside to armed city partisans are still under the control of the "Reaffirmists."

"But we will soon be forming our own armed units," Villafuerte said.

In a written statement released to different media outlets, Rojo accused the old regional committee of manipulation when "volumes of documents" opposing Liwanag's thesis regarding the reaffirmation were burned. He added that CPP elements in the region were being prohibited from reading "opposition papers" and from holding or attending critical studies regarding the debate issues.

"Instead of resolving differences in opinions through democratic means... the committee has resorted to bureaucratic centralism and used organizational sanctions to silence the opposition..." the press statement said.

It said the party has been one-sided, subjective, and arbitrary in analysis and conclusions within its decade of revolutionary struggle. With the declaration of autonomy, the new CPP regional committee will be attached only to

VISCOM which was ordered dissolved by the pro-Sison national executive committee of the CPP.

Manila Proposes Continuing Talks With NDF

BK2810130493 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0930 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] The government panel negotiating with the National Democratic Front [NDF] has proposed continuing exploratory talks with the communists on 15 November.

Howard Dee, head of the government panel, wrote to NDF Representative Luis Jalandoni to convey the panel's proposal. The government panel originally suggested resuming the talks on 18 October, but according to Congressman Jesus Dureta, the government panel's spokesman, the NDF did not respond.

Although it is still not certain when the talks will continue, it is already final that they will be held in Vietnam.

President Ramos Vows To Liberate Poor

BK2810092693 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] President Fidel Ramos reiterated his administration's goal to remove grave inequity in Philippine society by dismantling monopolies and cartels. Speaking before the National Congress of People's Organizations at the (Ecotech) Center, the chief executive stressed that, quote, our people do not have to be forever dictated on by the ruling class of the political elite, unquote. Mr. Ramos said majority of the Filipinos continue to be hostage to the dictates of the country's political and economic elites which he said serves as a stumbling block to the Philippines' economic progress. He said the ruling class and the political elites continue to keep the poor Filipinos poor so they would be easy to buy come election time. It is to the interest of this ruling class that the poor should remain. Thus, the monopolies and cartels in our midst and their concomitant inequity and limitation of opportunities, thus the perpetration of a political system where people are dependent so their votes are easy to buy come election time, the president said. [sentence as heard]

He said his administration's policy of people empowerment will serve as a vital weapon in liberating poor Filipinos from the dictates of the ruling class. This is why I want to empower our people to awaken in all of us the awareness that it is only through our own will and effort that we can be freed from the bondage of poverty, quote, unquote, Mr. Ramos said. Our people will not have to be forever dictated on by the ruling class or the political elite, quote, unquote.

President Ramos said his administration has launched various programs that would allow ordinary Filipinos to go into private business to improve their lives. He cited a guaranteed program or loans given to small and

medium enterprises. The president said private organizations can help the government empower the people by tapping various government programs that would provide livelihood to poor Filipinos. He said Filipinos can also form cooperatives in their communities and avail themselves of easy loans or financing from the government and private financing institutions.

Government Prepared To Pay Foreign Debts

BK2810043393 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 26 Oct 93 p B-1

[By Fil C. Sionil]

[Text] The Department of Finance (DOF) is prepared to pay the \$1.6-billion maturing obligations due the Paris Club next year if the country fails to obtain a new economic program with the International Monetary Fund by yearend.

"If we don't reschedule it (referring to the maturing obligations) then we have to service it," [Department of Budget and Finance Secretary Benjamin] Leung said, adding that the country will continue to pay and avoid getting in technical arrears which may hamper the inflow of new loans.

In the past, the Philippine government has gotten into technical arrears on loans from the Paris Club since it was still in the process of negotiating with the Fund on a new program.

This year, however, the economic managers have opted to settle the \$1.045 billion Paris Club obligation over three quarters starting April to end-December since an economic accord with the Fund has to be concluded.

While the government preferred a fifth rescheduling agreement with the Paris Club, negotiations could not commence because talks for an economic program with the Fund have stalled.

Despite the payment, Leung assured that the \$1.6 billion will not result in unwarranted increase in the level of debt service allocation for next year since it has already been included in the proposed debt service appropriations currently being scrutinized by Congress.

The proposed debt service outlay for next year amounts to P119 billion [Philippine pesos] of which P81.2 billion goes to interest payments while the balance of P36.6 billion goes to principal payments.

"We have to be very careful because it may foreclose on new money loans" Leung said.

Philippines needs to have an IMF-sponsored economic program before it could seek a restructuring agreement with the 14-member countries of the Paris Club.

Paris club member-countries wants an international watchdog like the IMF to closely monitor the fiscal and

monetary aggregates of a third-world borrower country like the Philippines before agreeing to any rescheduling talks.

The country is currently under review by the IMF on its first semester economic performance under Article IV of the Fund's charter.

While this review-consultation is an annual exercise that Fund members have to go through, the country's economic managers said the results of the review would lay the foundation for future programs to be supported by the Fund.

Of the \$1.045 billion due this year, the government has already paid \$652 million.

Thailand

Efforts To Bring Physicians Home From U.S. Noted

BK2710093193 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] In less than six months there should be some progress in our efforts to have Thai medical doctors, now working in the United States, return home. The appropriate authorities have held discussions with a group representing Thai doctors practicing in the United States. The latter agreed to return to Thailand. The following is a report by Doctor Phaichit Pawabut, permanent secretary in the Public Health Ministry:

[Begin Phaichit recording] There was a meeting there with doctors and nurses. A group of doctors from Mahidon University, including University Rector Professor Pradit, and a group from the Medical Council, including Secretary General Wichai, went on the trip. As a result, a working group has been formed to coordinate between the Public Health Ministry, the State University Bureau—represented by Permanent Secretary Wichit and his team—and Thai medical doctors who are practicing in the United States. The work is being done at the Suranari Institute of Technology. The officials have now reached a clear-cut stage in coordinating their work to encourage medical doctors practicing in the United States to return home. Many of them are professors, some are deans, and many are experts in specific fields. There are about 40 to 50 on our list. So we can say that we have had discussions with them, and we are following up in order to get results. [end recording]

Spokesman on Saudi Issue, UN Forces, Libya

BK2910061393 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Sakthip Krairoek, director of the Information Department of the Foreign Ministry, gave an interview to reporters concerning the Saudi Arabian ambassador's voicing his dissatisfaction with Thailand's handling of the cases involving Saudi Arabia. He also noted that the

envoy's remark could lead to a misunderstanding. Sakthip said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made efforts to explain the Thai position to the Saudi Arabian authorities, saying that the agencies involved should publicize any progress made in order to better understand the Saudi Arabian position.

On the killings of Thai monks in the United States, some fear that the suspects—who hold U.S. citizenship and Thai nationality—will not be fairly treated, and the Information Department chief said that the Thai Embassy in the United States has steadily followed the developments of the case. The court sentence on the case will be on 17 December; therefore, one must wait for the final results of legal actions in accordance with U.S. legal procedures, as well as listen to reasons cited by U.S. authorities during the trial. Should there be any dissatisfaction with the verdict, an appeal can be made to the court. However, Thailand should respect the U.S. handling of the case with confidence that the United States will handle it justly.

United Nations forces withdrawing from Cambodia are expected to complete their pass through Thailand by 15 November. Thai troops will be home by 1 November.

On the question of Thai workers sent to work in chemical weapons production plants in Libya, the Information Department director reported that three companies sent Thai workers to such plants in Libya, and the agencies concerned have already revoked licenses for these companies. The Thai move on this matter has satisfied the United States and is regarded as a good example for other countries to follow. Meanwhile, early this year Thailand signed an agreement prohibiting chemical weapons and will strictly follow the accord.

Tuna Exports Face Environmental Protests

BK2810014693 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Oct 93 p 20

[Excerpt] Thailand will remain its competitiveness in the tuna-export industry though it will continue to face protests by environmentalists, an industry conference was told yesterday.

Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan, in the opening speech to the Tuna '93 conference, said the Thai industry encountered a series of setbacks and constraints during the second half of the 1980s. Many were related to environmental measures that affected the international fishery in general. But he said: "Thailand will have to continue to improve our competitive operation and to overcome vulnerabilities in both the short and long terms."

Fishery Department Director-General Plotprasop Suratsawadi said he understood the legitimate concerns of environmentalists, who have campaigned for years against methods of netting tuna that end up killing other fish.

"I don't worry about their activities if they are sincerely directed against damage to marine life," he said. "But if such protests are a disguised form of trade restraint, they will be difficult to overcome."

He noted that the small European Community quota increase of 48,000 tonnes was not fair to Thailand since it must be divided among many tuna exporters. However, he said tuna industry prospects remain good and solutions are expected to be found after the Bangkok conference.

Thailand's seafood exports reached US\$3,288.8 million (83.2 billion baht) last year. Tuna exports of US\$627.96 million constituted more than 19 percent of that total.

Thailand is the world's leading exporter of canned tuna. [passage omitted]

Officials View Security of Lao, Burmese Borders

BK2810155793 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] General Charan Kunlawanit, secretary general of the National Security Council; Lieutenant General Yingyot Chotphimai, commander of the 3d Army Region; and Phira Manathat, deputy governor of Chiang Rai Province, held a news conference with the mass media on the border security situation and cooperation with neighboring countries Laos and Burma.

Speaking about Hmong refugees in Thailand, Gen. Charan said that last year Thailand sent 6,000 of them back to Laos, but there are about 30,000 still here. He said measures have been taken to prevent those people from using Thailand as a base to stage terrorist acts against Laos. He said the Hmong people now staying at Wat Tham Krabok would be screened and repatriated.

Lt. Gen. Yingyot Chotphimai, commander of the 3d Army Region, said that checkpoints had been set up to prevent illegal immigrants from sneaking into Thailand to stage terrorist acts against Laos. He said this had improved relations between Thailand and Laos.

Regarding the question of some ethnic minority leaders in Burma illegally using Thailand as a transit point to travel to other countries, the secretary general of the National Security Council said they would be arrested if there was proof they had broken the law.

Burma Agrees To Release Detained Fishermen

BK2910021193 Bangkok THE NATION in English
29 Oct 93 p A7

[Text] Burma has agreed to place on probation Thai fishermen arrested of poaching in Burmese territorial waters, according to Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek.

"The Burmese authorities agreed not to take any further legal action against the 59 Thai captains and crew of a Thai-Burmese joint venture's four vessels arrested

before Sept 17 this year," Sakthip said. However, according to the spokesman, anyone of them found violating Rangoon territorial waters again will face punishment which will include the previously suspended penalties. The agreement was concluded during talks between high-level officials of both countries in Rangoon on Oct 25-27.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri last month flew to Rangoon to co-chair the three-day Thai-Burmese Joint Commission meeting with his Burmese counterpart U Ohn Gyaw. They had discussed fishery disputes and the timber issue.

Prasong had also raised the fisheries issue when he met the chairman of the Burmese the [as published] State Law and Order Restoration Council, Gen Than Swe. Sakthip said 30 fishermen will return to Bangkok this afternoon and the other 29 tomorrow evening.

The skippers of the fishing boats face a maximum penalty under new Burmese fishing laws of five years in jail and a fine of between 200,000-500,000 kyats (Bt [baht] 600,000-Bt1 million), and an additional one to three years in jail for defaulting on the fine. Each crew member is liable to a seven-year jail term and a fine of 20,000-50,000 kyats (Bt60,000-150,000).

House To Debate Censure of Ministers

BK2810134793 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] The leaders of six opposition parties submitted a no-confidence motion against the interior minister and the commerce minister to House Speaker Marut Bunnak this evening. After receiving the no-confidence motion, the House speaker said that he will put the no-confidence motion on the agenda of the House of Representatives as soon as possible. He will have to take into account, however, the ministers' readiness for the debate. The censure motion is expected to be debated within the next two weeks. He also said that there will be no time limit if the opposition parties send no more than 20 MP's to speak during the debate.

Editorial Sees 'Big Storm' Facing Coalition

BK2810141793 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 28 Oct 93
p 4

[Editorial: "Another Test for the Government Coalition"]

[Text] The Chuan 2 coalition government is facing another big storm as a result of poor administrative coordination or political maneuvering by certain factions within the coalition itself.

The work of the coalition parties has given the opposition the opportunity to seek a no-confidence debate against the government. Although it can never be toppled by a censure debate if the parties in the coalition

remain united, analysts do not rule out the possibility of a split vote among the coalition parties under present circumstances.

The most controversial of all the problems is the removal of Police General Sawat Amonwiwat, director of police, by Interior Minister General Chawalit Yongchaiyut. There were protests in several sectors, including among policemen and opposition MP's—especially the Group of 16, which is campaigning seriously on the issue. Those people tried to expose in the press evidence of favoritism by the New Aspiration Party in pushing for promotions for police officials. The New Aspiration Party, meanwhile, tried to organize mobs to counter the campaign.

On this matter, there has been no clear-cut stand by the Democrat Party, although Prime Minister Chuan Likphai's comments were considered a defense of Gen. Chawalit. The Democrat Party and other parties in the coalition remained indifferent and did not help the New Aspiration Party deal with outside pressures. On the contrary, the Democrat Party's secretary general even criticized the leader of the New Aspiration Party.

As for the Phalang Tham Party, its big concern is the underground electric train project. But with the government's decision to freeze it pending the drafting of a master plan, the party does not seem very happy with the role played by the Democrat and New Aspiration Parties on this matter. The party, however, has toned down its discontent from its strong vehemence last week.

The issue of a bus fare increase, floated at the wrong moment, was another cause of conflict between the Democrat and Phalang Tham Parties. They are accusing each other of being responsible for the idea.

The election of members of the Bangkok district councils, although not a major election, could be further grounds for contention between the Democrat and Phalang Tham Parties. They will fight fiercely for control of the Bangkok electorate, and the campaign could lead to stronger animosity.

There is also trouble at the Solidarity Party—its leader has just fired the Commerce Ministry permanent secretary over an administrative problem. Although the problem does not look so serious as the firing of the police chief, it is believed that Minister Uthai Phimchachichon will now have difficulty performing his duties at the ministry.

The Democrat Party also has its own problem—it came under fire over the proposal to open national forests for tourism. Now, with the problems of the four coalition parties, it must be very difficult for Prime Minister Chuan Likphai to keep the coalition parties together. It must be difficult for him to ensure the survival of his ship of state. If the four parties fail to stick together, the coming censure debate could set the stage for a cabinet reshuffle or a reorganization of the coalition lineup.

Vietnam

Commenque Announces Le Duc Anh To Visit Laos

BK2810150593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Commenque by the Foreign Affairs Ministry; date not given]

[Text] At the invitation of Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavanh, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]. Comrade Le Duc Anh, president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, will pay a friendly official visit to the LPDR in the near future.

Lao Justice Minister, Delegation on Visit

BK2710113593 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] This morning, Justice Minister Kham-ouan Boupha led a delegation to Vietnam at the invitation of the SRV Justice Ministry. During their scheduled seven-day visit, the justice minister and his delegation will consult with their SRV counterparts on continuing cooperation in the legal field and on justice issues between the two countries in order to learn from each other.

In addition, the delegations of Laos and Vietnam will sign a cooperation plan for 1994 in which the SRV plans to assist Laos in the study of law and in preparing legal documents. At the same time, lawyers from both sides will exchange experiences. The SRV will provide assistance to Lao law enforcement personnel to raise the level of their technical knowledge.

President Sends Sihanouk Birthday Greetings

BK2910142793 Hanoi VNA in English 1359 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 29—President Le Duc Anh has sent a message of greetings to King of the Kingdom of Cambodia Norodom Sihanouk on his 71th birthday.

In his message, the Vietnamese leader expressed his belief that 'under the leadership of the king, the Cambodian people will succeed in building Cambodia into an independent, peaceful, unified, neutral and non-aligned kingdom which has friendly relations with all countries'. He also expressed his hope that the king will continue making important contributions to further consolidating and developing the relations of friendship, cooperation and fine neighbourhood between the two countries in the interests of the people of Vietnam and Cambodia'.

On Oct. 28, the Vietnamese ambassador to Cambodia met with Prince Norodom Sirivut, minister for foreign affairs and international cooperation to hand over President Le Duc Anh's message and presents to King

Norodom Sihanouk. On this occasion, Prince Norodom Sirivut, on behalf of the king and the royal family, expressed his deeply profound thanks to President Le Duc Anh. Prince Norodom Sirivut affirmed that Vietnam And cambodia should strengthen the relations of friendship cooperation and close neighbourhood between the two countries for peace, cooperation and development for the sake of the interests of the two peoples and the region.

Foreign Minister Holds Talks in Belarus

*BK2810153793 Hanoi VNA in English 1524 GMT
28 Oct 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct 28—Minister for Foreign Affairs [F.M.] Nguyen Manh Cam paid an official visit to the Republic of Belarus from Oct. 25-27.

While there Mr. Cam was received by Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Belarus S. Shushkevich, held talks with Foreign Minister P. Kravchanka and met with Deputy Chairman of the Ministers Council N. Kosikov [name as received] and other Belarusian senior officials.

After informing each other of the situation of each country and exchanging views on international and regional issues of common concern, F.M. Nguyen Manh Cam and Belarusian leaders focussed on their discussion on measures and methods to further strengthen bilateral relations. The two sides reaffirmed that they would do their best to consolidate and develop the time honoured friendship and cooperation between the two countries on a new basis and in conformity with the new situation.

The Belarusian leaders expressed their pleasure the initial but important achievements made by the Vietnamese people in their renovation process. They also spoke highly of Vietnam's foreign policy.

The two sides agreed to promote their joint venture in rubber planting and processing in Vietnam and to study possibilities for further cooperation in science and technology, mechanical engineering, agriculture, culture, education and personnel training. They also agreed to increase the volume and value of goods exchange between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and his Belarusian counterpart, P. Kravchanka, signed an agreement on travel of citizens of both countries and a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the two foreign ministries. They agreed to sign as soon as possible an agreement on avoidance of double taxation, an agreement on aviation cooperation and documents on juridical cooperation between the two countries.

Assembly Delegation Ends Visit to France

*BK2810155593 Hanoi VNA in English 1540 GMT
28 Oct 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 28—The delegation of the National Assembly led by Chairman Nong Duc Manh

ended its four-day official visit to France on Oct. 27. While in France, the delegation held talks and had working sessions with the leading officials of the National Assembly, the Senate and the Government of France, and visited a number of economic, cultural and social establishments in Paris and other localities.

Yesterday afternoon, a ceremony was held at the office of the National Assembly of France by Speaker of the National Assembly Phillip Seguin to see off Chairman Nong Duc Manh and his party.

Radio Appraises French Ties

*BK2810143893 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 28 Oct 93*

[Station commentary]

[Text] France will continue assisting Vietnam so that relations will continuously develop. French National Assembly Speaker Mr. Philippe Seguin made the affirmation during talks with the visiting chairman of Vietnamese National Assembly Nong Duc Manh in France. Following is our review of France-Vietnam relations.

Chairman Nong Duc Manh said Vietnam highly appreciated the efficient assistance France has given. He expressed his belief that the cooperative relations between Vietnam and France will constantly consolidate and develop. The speaker of the French National Assembly praised the achievements of Vietnam in economic development and improvement of people's life over the past few years, describing them as contributions in improving international relations.

Relations between Vietnam and France are long-standing and developing. The official visit to Vietnam by President Francois Mitterrand in February this year opened up a new era for France-Vietnam ties and, consequently, those between Vietnam and other European countries.

France has given precious and timely assistance not only in the diplomatic field but also in economic field. At present, France is the fourth biggest trade partner of Vietnam and ranked third in investment in Vietnam. France also helped Vietnam to return to the international financial community and it has joined up many countries which strived to persuade the United States to lift economic embargo against Vietnam. The French Government last year doubled its aid to Vietnam, reaching 330 million francs. French companies are busy in Vietnam. It means France-Vietnam relations are not stopped at the current level but they gallop and become more effective.

The Vietnamese people hope the visit to France by the Vietnamese National Assembly chairman will contribute to this process.

Government Holds Regular Meeting 26-28 Oct

BK2910034793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] The government held a regular monthly meeting in Hanoi from 26-28 October under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

At this meeting, the government heard:

- Do Quoc San, minister of state and head of the State Planning Commission, present essential issues in the socioeconomic development plans for the years 1994 and 1994-95.
- Minister of Finance Ho Te discuss the implementation of the 1993 state budget and the 1994 state budget estimate.
- Minister of Construction Ngo Xuan Loc present a draft government ordinance on regulations governing real estate sales and businesses; and another government ordinance on enforcing the law on real estate and real estate ownership.
- Minister of Justice Nguyen Dinh Loc deliver a report on preparations for the law-building programs for 1994, and for the period from 1995 until the end of the term of office of the Ninth National Assembly—mid-1997.

The government spent a great deal of time discussing efforts to evaluate the situation on implementing the 1993 state budget and the three-year 1991-93 state budget as well as other essential issues under the socio-economic development program for the next two years. This is to further substantiate those issues already discussed by the government during its July 1993 regular meeting in Ho Chi Minh City.

Cabinet members contributed their views on various draft documents and clarified a number of views on the evaluation of the situation and of those achievements scored in the implementation of the budget plans for 1993 and for the past three years. They also discussed residual difficulties and shortcomings and new challenges to be faced in implementing the budget plans for 1994 and for the remaining two years of the five-year 1991-95 period.

The government set forth a number of targets to be achieved in the budget plans for 1994 and for the two-year 1994-95 period as well as approaches with which to achieve these targets. This will be presented to the National Assembly at its upcoming session.

The government anticipated that gross national product will increase by 8 percent in 1994 and 9 percent in 1995 and that price increase will be limited to a single-digit level.

Addressing the meeting, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet emphatically said: The correct evaluation of the situation regarding implementation of the budget plans for 1993 and for the three-year 1991-93 period will have a

decisive impact on mapping out socioeconomic development plans for the year 1994 and for the next two years. On the basis of uniformly evaluating the situation, various ministries, sectors, and localities should clearly determine concrete objectives and approaches for implementing the state budget plans for the year 1994 and for the 1994-95 period. We should strive to unfailingly overcome the imbalance between the tempo of economic development and the pace of social development. Efforts to mobilize all sources of capital, including the country's large capital potential, to invest in building the infrastructure is still weak, thus constraining the pace of socioeconomic development at present.

Various ministries, sectors, and localities should renovate their mode of handling their budget plans, clearly determine every program and plan, fix clear-cut times for implementation, evaluate the results of every program and plan, and avoid fragmental operations as this is less effective. From 1994 onward, we should take the initiative to prepare and implement plans and should shift from preparing plans based on situations to preparing plans for each stage of development in a steady fashion.

At this meeting, the government also examined a number of issues directly related to its operations such as preparing conditions for receiving and managing new sources of capital investment, settling debts in the second phase, rectifying the task regarding maintaining traffic safety, and so forth.

Hanoi Suburbs To Benefit From ADB Loan

BK2810050493 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] The Asian Development Bank [ADB], in the Philippine capital of Manila on 27 October, approved a loan of \$76.5 million to help Vietnam implement an anti-waterlogging and flash-flood control program in Hanoi's suburbs. This is the first part of a loan that the ADB has granted Vietnam over the past 20 years or so.

Newspaper Marks 38th Anniversary With Party

BK2610103193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] In commemoration of the 38th anniversary of the HANOI MOI newspaper, 24 October, cadres, reporters, editors and employees of the newspaper held a get-together to review their tradition of unit building and growth and to reaffirm their decision to make HANOI MOI increasingly worthy of being a mouthpiece of the municipal party committee and a forum of the local people in the renovation process.

On this occasion, Comrade Pham The Duyet, secretary of the municipal party committee; Comrade Ha Dang, head of the party Central Committee Ideology and Culture Department; leading cadres of the municipal party committees, people's councils, and people's committees; representatives

of the Ministry of Culture Information, of the Vietnam Journalists' Association, and a number of editors-in-chief and directors-general of various newspapers, and radio and television stations of the central authority and of Hanoi also came to congratulate the HANOI MOI newspaper.

Many organs and units of the municipality and of the grass roots also came to present flowers and gifts and congratulate the newspaper on its 38th anniversary.

Two New Treasury Bills Issued Effective 1 Nov

*BK2610070593 Hanoi VNA in English 0659 GMT
26 Oct 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 26—The State Bank of Vietnam has announced that it will put into circulation as from November 1 two new treasury bills of big denominations, five million dong and 500,000 dong. The new 500,000 dong bills will replace the old ones issued on May 5, 1993, which remains valid until Oct. 31, 1993.

UK To Withdraw From South Pacific Commission

*BK2610115793 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0630 GMT 26 Oct 93*

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] This year's South Pacific conference has begun with the surprise announcement that Britain may withdraw from the South Pacific Commission [SPC] by 1995. Peter Richardson reports that the announcement has led to renewed calls for wealthy nations such as Japan to be given full membership of the organization.

[Begin recording] [Richardson] The leader of Britain's delegation, Mr. (Harold Murphy) gave the warning during the first official session of the commission's annual conference. Economic troubles at home was cited as the reason for Britain's possible withdrawal but the SPC has financial problems of its own. An auditor's report last year revealed irregularities in the financial management of the commission and donor countries have expressed concern about the organization's administration. Tuvalu's prime minister, Bikenibeu Paeniu, who heard the British announcement firsthand, said it came shortly after the conference had been told that many commission programs in health, agriculture, and fisheries could not go ahead because of lack of funds.

[Paeniu] You see right now, the trouble it faces is the lack of resources to implement programs. In fact this conference has been told that 85 percent of the programs were not able to be implemented last year because of lack of resources. So, you see it proves that any partner in the organization, especially the metropolitan countries, are important.

[Richardson] Mr. Paeniu has been an advocate for granting Pacific Rim countries, such as Japan, full membership of the SPC. He was quick to respond to the British announcement.

[Paeniu] Japan is very much interested to be a partner and for the past four years Japan has tried to become a member of SPC, and so I have urged and made an appeal to this conference that there is a solution as well to the pulling out of Great Britain, that we will now admit Brunei or Japan. They could be in the organization as full member and that can supplement the programs in the absence of Great Britain in anticipation of its withdrawal.

[Richardson] You made that call in response to the British announcement this morning. How was it received by other members of the conference?

[Paeniu] Well, from my consultations after that, they're very much...very well [received]. There's a great support from especially among the Pacific island countries, member countries. They now understand that [words indistinct] in fact Great Britain did (?refer) to the membership question. May be that it was timely that he

informed the conference of their intention to pull out and given the fact that this conference is also considering membership.

[Richardson] The British announcement added to the SPC's existing financial woes means that it is highly likely the conference will approve amendments to the criteria for membership. These amendments would allow wealthy countries with interests in the pacific such as Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea to join the organization. [end recording]

Australia**Trade Minister on Indonesian Tariff Barriers**

*BK2810063693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 28 Oct 93*

[Text] Australia's trade minister, Peter Cook, says Indonesia's tariff barriers are still high. Sen. Peter Cook today address business people and government officers at the Australian-Indonesian Business Council in Darwin.

Sen. Cook welcomed Indonesia's recent package of regulation measures, which includes reducing some barriers, but he says the process is too slow. He also said Australia and Indonesia would face a shared challenge at the forthcoming meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic group, APEC, in the American city of Seattle. However, Sen. Cook stressed the increasing cooperation between the two countries. He said the challenge at Seattle is for members to agree on a trade and investment framework for the region, and perhaps to agree on other moves toward a more integrated regional market.

Meanwhile, the president of the Australian-Indonesian Business Council says Australia is in danger of wearing out its welcome in Indonesia by sending too many trade missions. Peter Church said Australia is sending far too many uncoordinated trade missions and a way has to be found to stop this because it is going to react against Australia in the long run.

Keating Criticized on Indonesian Human Rights

*BK2810064693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 28 Oct 93*

[Text] The prime minister's stance on alleged human rights abuses in Indonesia has come in for criticism from the Australian Council of Trade Unions [ACTU]. The criticisms come just weeks before planned visit to Indonesia by the ACTU president, Martin Ferguson, and the federal industrial relations minister, Laurie Brereton.

Mr. Ferguson told an international trade union conference in Sydney the ACTU supports the stand of the United States Government on querying allegations of human rights abuses in Indonesia. He says while that position may put trade unions in conflict with Prime Minister Paul Keating's view of the world, the union movement is an independent organization.

Mr. Keating, who leaves Jakarta today after talks with President Suharto, has said human rights abuses in Indonesia should not be treated in isolation. Mr. Ferguson has also called on the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation group to support moves to include a social clause in all international trade agreements. It would give minimum guarantees on working conditions and the right to organize unions.

Minister on Possible Uranium Sale to Taiwan

*BK2710091393 Hong Kong AFP in English 0757 GMT
27 Oct 93*

[Text] Canberra, Oct 27 (AFP)—Australia is examining the possibility of selling uranium to Taiwan under the protection of a U.S. nuclear safeguards agreement. Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Wednesday. Evans told the Senate Australia's main concern was that any deal satisfied current policy and would not run counter to nuclear non-proliferation objectives.

Industry sources estimate that Taiwan might want around 600,000 pounds of uranium a year from Australia, worth about 20 million [currency not specified] (13.4 million U.S.). Australian officials are looking at a Canadian agreement with the United States under which uranium is to be processed there and re-exported to Taiwan through an American nuclear safeguards agreement with Taiwan.

"We are keeping under review the possibility of uranium sales to Taiwan," Evans said answering a question by a minor party senator. "Officials have discussed with the U.S. the Canada-U.S.-Taiwan supply agreement and American policy and practice on the conclusion of similar agreements. These discussions imply no commitment that Australia would eventually conclude an agreement similar to Canada's. The key issue is whether, or on what basis, any sales of Australian uranium to Taiwan would be able to satisfy Australia's stringent nuclear safeguards necessary to ensure that uranium was used only for peaceful purposes."

"If there were any doubts on that point there would be no possibility of uranium sales to Taiwan proceeding," he added.

Although Taiwan is a party to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty it has not accepted the full scope of safeguards administered by the International Atomic Energy Agency and has no bilateral nuclear safeguards agreement with Australia.

Minister Opens Trade Office in Darwin

*BK2710092593 Hong Kong AFP in English 0701 GMT
27 Oct 93*

[Text] Darwin, Australia, Aug 17 (AFP)—A new office of Australia's department of foreign affairs and trade was opened by Trade Minister Peter Cook here Wednesday as part of Canberra's plan to develop the northern port city as a trading link with Asia. In formally opening the

office, Cook said the government recognised the growing links between the Northern Territory—of which Darwin is the major city—and Indonesia.

The new office would have a particular focus on assisting the development of trade and investment opportunities in East Asia, providing a comprehensive array of support to Northern Territory business, he said.

"The territory's business people are uniquely placed on the door-step of Asia to take advantage of the enormous challenges and opportunities being presented by the region," Cook said.

Treasurer John Dawkins announced government plans for Darwin while presenting a four-year budget strategy to parliament in August. As a first step, Dawkins said, the government was setting up a high-level committee with a budget of two million Australian dollars (1.35 million U.S.) for each of the next two years to report on Darwin's potential as a trading centre. He emphasised that Australia was counting on closer investment and trading links with Asia to help sustain its recovery.

Cook was also in Darwin to participate in the Australia-Indonesia Business Promotion Week.

Bank Governor Sees 'Unspectacular' Recovery

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28 Oct 93*

[Text] Canberra, Oct 28 (AFP)—Business and banks are yet to come to terms with the reality of lower inflation in Australia where a reasonable if unspectacular economic recovery is under way, the central bank chief said Wednesday. Reserve Bank governor Bernie Fraser told a parliamentary banking inquiry that there were signs of increased business investment and overall demand was picking up. As well, the world economic outlook was mixed but there were expectations the current financial year would be better than the last.

"We do have, by some standards, a reasonable recovery under way," he said, but added that it was not spectacular.

Fraser's comments follow the release Wednesday of data showing Australia's annual inflation rate at 2.2 percent and an announcement by Canberra that it had revised downwards its budget inflation forecast from 3.5 percent to three percent. He said Australia was in its third year of low underlying inflation, commenting: "Expectations about inflation are generally on the improve".

The central bank did not nominate a level of inflation at which it would lift interest rates because it had to balance other concerns.

"I think central banks have to be concerned about people, not just inflation," he said in response to a question.

The problem with inflation targets was that the bank had other objectives beside inflation such as the maintenance of employment as part of its charter, Fraser said. But it was also determined to keep inflation down.

"I don't say inflation has been licked," he said. "I think that we've demonstrated what we've been about on inflation."

While inflationary expectations had decreased business and banks had yet to come to terms with the reality of lower inflation.

New Zealand

Results of Opinion Poll on Upcoming Elections

*BK2910023893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0123 GMT
29 Oct 93*

[By Michael Field]

[Text] Wellington, Oct 29 (AFP)—An unlikely alliance of greens, Maori nationalists and old style socialists is making a late surge a week from elections here, and while unlikely to win they could destroy the main opposition party. An opinion poll published here Friday gives the ruling National Party 39 percent support (compared with 42 percent a month earlier), the opposition Labour Party 32 percent (35 percent) and the Alliance Party 17 percent (11 percent). The election will be held on November 6.

The weekly NATIONAL BUSINESS REVIEW (NBR), which commissioned the survey of 750 randomly selected voters with a margin of error of 3.5 percent, said it showed the Alliance was in a strong position and was sending a warning to Labour.

"There is a real revolution going on with ordinary New Zealanders," Alliance leader Jim Anderton said Friday. "They're sickened by the argument between Labour and National about who is going to do least in government."

A rule of thumb here is that the Alliance is taking votes from Labour who could lose the election as a result. Labour finance spokesman Michael Cullen last week

claimed a vote for Anderton was a vote for Prime Minister Jim Bolger adding that Anderton's hatred of Labour was "psychopathic." The Alliance is a rebellious child of the Labour Party.

Labour, once a traditional socialist party aligned with the trade union movement, lurched to the right in the mid-80s when in power, sending the party down the monetarist, free-market [word indistinct], radically deregulating the economy.

Among the bewildered old style Labour supporters was Anderton, an MP and Labour's former president who in 1989 quit the party and founded the New Labour Party (NLP). When Labour was tossed out of office in 1990, Anderton stood against his former party and won a seat.

Anderton, 55, was named in 1974 by Time magazine as one of 150 people around the world with, or capable of having, "significant civil or social impact". A Catholic educated in working class state schools, he has teaching and business degrees, served as a city councillor and became a business executive before founding his own successful engineering business. He claims "I'm quite equal in my contempt for both Labour and National.... You get the same Treasury, Reserve Bank, user-pays, de-regulatory, market-force-led economy under either."

New Zealand's first past the post voting system has ensured parliament is dominated by Labour and National and the minor parties seldom get a look in. Anderton's response in 1991 was to create the Alliance, a coalition of the NLP, the Greens, the Maori sovereignty party Mana [words indistinct] social credit Democratic Party. The Alliance has taken the left wing as its own, while National has reclaimed the right and middle ground, leaving Labour floundering, political commentators say, noting that Alliance is now the biggest crowd drawer.

NBR in an editorial said Anderton's coalition "has made impressive gains in recent polls by telling people what they don't want to hear", which is to keep to its manifesto and put up taxes.

"But whether you like or loathe Mr Anderton—and this newspaper is no fan of the Alliance's tax, protectionist and welfare policies—you have to respect him for his honesty," NBR said.